

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING

JUNE 6, 1997

**DANIEL BABIN
CHAIRMAN**

WOODWORTH, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Tapes of the meetings are kept at the
Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

For more information, call (504) 765-2806

AGENDA
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
WOODWORTH, LOUISIANA
JUNE 6, 1997

	Page
1. Roll Call	1
2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997	1
3. Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources	1
4. Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns	2
5. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation	3
6. Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species	5
7. Public Comments - 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons	6
8. Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations	6
9. Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest (Information Only)	8
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May	8
11. Division Reports	9
12. Set October 1997 Meeting Date	9
13. Public Comments	9
14. Adjournment	10

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Friday, June 6, 1997

Chairman Daniel Babin presiding.

Jerald Hanchey
Tom Gattle
Norman McCall
Glynn Carver

Secretary James H. Jenkins, Jr. was also present.

Commissioners Perry Gisclair and Joseph Cormier were absent from the meeting.

Chairman Babin thanked the Office of Forestry and Mr. Don Feduccia for their hospitality.

Chairman Babin called for a motion for approval of the **May 1, 1997 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Hanchey and seconded by Commissioner Carver. The motion passed with no opposition.

Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources began with Mr. David Lavergne introducing Mr. Rob Southwick with Southwick and Associates. Mr. Southwick was contracted to estimate the economic benefits to the economy of the State from fishing, hunting and boating resources. This estimate showed how important the Department's role is in monitoring and conserving the resources for the future. A copy of the summary sheet was provided to the Commissioners for their information. Mr. Southwick began stating his business specialized in fish and wildlife economics. The project for the Department was to measure the contributions to the state's economy produced by users of fish, wildlife and boating resources managed by the Department. He then stated existing data was used in this project. The numbers in the report were big numbers but did not mean much when they stood by themselves, stated Mr. Southwick. In the State of Louisiana, hunting supports 9,800 jobs; recreational fishing employs 18,400 people; and commercial fisheries amounts to approximately \$2.1 million in retail sales. The business of managing fish, wildlife and boating resources is just as important to the state's economy as oil, gas, timber or any other resource-based business. Tax revenues from this business produced \$261 million. Concluding, Mr. Southwick stated the managing of resources can be considered a business and that regular investments, maintenance of assets, and insuring the health of the company were needed.

Secretary Jenkins thanked Mr. Southwick and his company for the good job they did and expressed his appreciation. A copy of the report has been mailed to the Legislators, the Congressional Delegates, major universities and a number of major businesses to explain how big the Department's business is and what it means to the State. Also Secretary Jenkins explained the State's bookkeeping system and how it does not allow for depreciation of equipment. A surplus this year has been created by watching the spending, stated Secretary Jenkins. Then he stated he has solicited the Governor and other administrative persons to get a one time allocation of money (\$6.3 million) in order to buy one time items such as a motor grader. A copy of the request and the items to be bought would be provided to each of the Commissioners. Chairman Babin asked if this money would come from this year's legislative session? Secretary Jenkins answered yes. Chairman Babin then thanked Mr. Southwick for his presentation.

Results of the 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns was given by Mr. Hugh Bateman. Statewide turkey hunting success ranged from much improved to poor. On the wildlife management areas, nine areas' success was about the same as in 1996 and much improved on seven other areas. Flooding shut down five of the management areas for the 1997 season as well as a major portion of Area C. Total harvest on the Wildlife Management Areas was 221 gobblers, which was down 10 birds from the 1996 season. The volunteer check stations recorded a total of 1,395 gobblers, which was the best total since 1990. The percentage of young birds taken this year was up at most locations. The west and central portions of the State experienced good turkey hunting success, while the northern and eastern areas had only average success. At the July 1997 Commission Meeting, the 1998 season recommendations will be presented, stated Mr. Bateman. Commissioner Gattle asked if any discussion has occurred on the turkey population being down in Area A? Mr. Bateman stated a closure has been discussed and would possibly be recommended for 1998. Then Commissioner Gattle asked about the success in Union Parish? Mr. Bateman explained how the staff reports their findings for each of the Areas.

Mr. Bateman then introduced Mr. Paul Farrell, Regional Director for the National Wild Turkey Federation. He also congratulated Mr. Farrell on the great job he has done in increasing the number of active chapters from 10 to 23 in just two years. Mr. Farrell stated the handouts given to each Commission member included a 1996 National Wild Turkey Federation Annual Report, a report that listed the project expenditures in Louisiana that the Louisiana Chapter has funded, and the turkey harvest for 1997. The volunteer check stations provided the wildlife staff with more data for managing turkeys. The Louisiana Chapter of the Federation bought and donated three Remington 870 Express Magnum Shotguns to be given to three hunters drawn from three areas in the State. The winner from the north district was Mr. Wade Pullig from Athens, the central district winner was Mr. Gerald Walter from

Baton Rouge, and the winner from southern Louisiana was Mr. Bruce Hunt from Franklinton. Mr. Farrell expressed appreciation to the hunters that checked in their birds and for the Commissioners' help with the drawings.

Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation began with Secretary Jenkins stating he wanted to give an overview of the Department's position. The rule, which was promulgated by the Commission, was passed due to a Federal Agent's video of southeast Louisiana hunters jumping over rice levees and killing a lot of birds. Only three tickets have been written on the rule and none has made it through the court system. Secretary Jenkins stated the rule was not an effective tool for enforcement, there is concern with the over population of geese and there is a bill in the legislature allowing hunters to use electronic devices. Then he stated the majority of the people he has talked to want to do away with the regulation. Those that do not want the regulation repealed are property owners that feels it helps them with trespassing. Secretary Jenkins then stated it was the Department's recommendation to repeal the goose creeping regulation. Mr. Hugh Bateman stated a short video was available that would give a good perspective of why there is a biological problem on the breeding grounds. At this point in the meeting, the video was shown. Secretary Jenkins stated the video presented the problem better than he could and then he urged the Commission to repeal the rule. Commissioner Gattle asked why has this regulation not been enforced by any judge? Col. Winton Vidrine stated the problem was in the interpretation of what constitutes goose creeping. Then Col. Vidrine stated Louisiana was the only State in the Nation that has this regulation. Commissioner McCall commented there was no point in writing tickets if it was not going to be enforced. Commissioner Gattle asked if there was a problem with hunters goose creeping? Secretary Jenkins stated the real problem was killing over the limit of geese and there is a law that handles that. Commissioner Gattle stated he wanted to understand the legality of goose creeping. Then Chairman Babin asked, if the goose creeping rule was repealed, would you be advocating for someone to go out and break the law by creeping and shooting into a flock of geese. He then stated the video presented several options to help with the over population problem, such as extending the season, raising the limit, and electronic calls. Then Chairman Babin asked if the present law was a deterrent to keep hunters from killing a large number of birds? Secretary Jenkins stated it probably was. Commissioner Hanchey asked, if you were creeping geese, which ones would you shoot, the snow geese or the specks? Chairman Babin stated the Commission could not regulate morality.

Mr. Steve Oates from Lafayette stated a lot of game is hunted by stealth and it can be done in an ethical and sportsmanlike way. From a common sense point, creeping could break up some of the big bodies of geese and allow those hunters not creeping to kill more snow geese. All sides of the issues agree there is a big problem

with the snow geese and it would be unconscienceable to not do anything. If the regulation was repealed, the actions of unethical hunters would continue and enforcement could deal with those people, stated Mr. Oates. He then suggested the Commission take a chance and repeal the goose creeping regulation. The concerns with trespassing are legitimate concerns. Mr. Oates, in his personal opinion, stated this repeal needed to be done as one solution to the problem and the Commission should look at other possible methods. Commissioner Carver stated to compare creeping geese to stealth hunting deer was no comparison. He then stated he spent two weeks with Mr. Dave Hall and Mr. Hall was not in favor of repealing the law. Commissioner Carver stated he was not in favor of repealing the regulation either because it would have very little impact on the situation as it now exists and there are other suggestions which are much better. Creeping is not sportsmanlike, stated Commissioner Carver.

Mr. David Boudreaux from Crowley, representing a Committee set up approximately two years ago, stated they were instructed to get both sides of the issue together and come up with a recommendation. During the October 1996 Commission Meeting, it was suggested a recommendation from the Committee be made available for mid-1997. All of the original members of the Committee were contacted to attend a meeting on April 24, 1997 at the Wetlands Center in Lafayette. The group was told to assemble all of the facts and consider all possible contingencies of goose management. Seven members attended the meeting and it was recommended to keep the present regulation on the books until something else could be developed for enforcement purposes. Mr. Boudreaux stated he asked Mr. Dave Hall what he would do with the regulation if he had to vote yes or no. Mr. Hall told him he would vote to keep it on the books since it was not hurting anyone or the geese. The true problem is the management of geese and not enforcement or trespassing problems. With the upsurge of rice production in the northern flyway, Mr. Boudreaux felt the geese would stay in the north. Mr. Boudreaux stated the recommendation from the Committee was to keep the regulation on the books and that the regulation be printed in the hunting pamphlet. Other states have similar regulations to the creeping regulation here in Louisiana, but it is not referred to as creeping, stated Mr. Boudreaux.

Mr. Dwight Munchrath, a concerned citizen, stated he attended the Committee Meetings referred to by Mr. Boudreaux. He felt the goose creeping ban allowed the population to grow and the harvest numbers to decrease. The issue is not creeping, but the population and the State of Louisiana needs to take the initiative to manage it properly with the vast resources available. The creeping regulation hampers the proper management of geese in Louisiana, stated Mr. Munchrath. He begged and urged the Commission to repeal the goose creeping regulation. Mr. Munchrath then referred to information he obtained from the Internet that was provided to the Commissioners. Chairman Babin stated the issue was not a 12 year

old creeping on two geese, but the tens of thousands of geese hunters could creep upon that could be crippled or slaughtered. Mr. Munchrath explained a situation where the birds can not be harvested unless they are moving about.

Mr. Art Brazda began referring to the video by Mr. Dave Hall and stated there was a need to teach a total ethical approach to hunting for waterfowl or any other species. He felt there were a lot of other ways of getting the geese and felt decoys was one such device. Mr. Brazda stated he can not go along with something that is unethical such as creeping.

Mr. Steve Oates stated you can shoot geese and stay within the limits by approaching by stealth. Then he stated the Committee referred to by Mr. Boudreaux was not a broad based committee. Mr. Oates then commented the information provided by Mr. Munchrath was broad based and does recognize the change in hunting techniques as a way to deal with the goose problem.

Commissioner Carver stated he knows something needs to be done with the goose population, but repealing the regulation is not the way to do it. Then he asked, if the regulation was repealed, would the image of Louisiana hunters be revitalized? He then commented, from speaking with people all over the world, he has found that the image of the Louisiana hunter is better now than it has been in 20 years due to the good enforcement and the work that has been put into it.

Col. Winton Vidrine stated it was very obvious, from a law enforcement standpoint, there are problems enforcing the regulation. He met with Mr. Bill Ferguson, a working federal agent, and Mr. Ferguson asked that the regulation be repealed. Col. Vidrine assured the Commission the laws are being enforced and the violators are under control. He then commented, if the law can not be enforced, take it off the books.

Commissioner McCall made a motion to repeal the goose creeping regulation. The motion died for lack of a second. Then Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to leave the goose creeping regulation as is and have it printed in the hunting pamphlet for the upcoming season. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner McCall opposing.

Mr. Dave Morrison handled the next item, **Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species**. The 1998 competition will be the 10th anniversary of legislation being enacted in 1988 to help with wetlands. Just under \$5 million has been generated from the sale of art prints and stamps. Next Mr. Morrison gave highlights on what the money has been used for. The last few years the numbers of contestants for the competition has declined and so the Department was going to push to make the 1998 competition a special year by getting the artist more involved. The full details

have not been worked out yet, but there may be a commemorative edition stamp or a silent auction. Mr. Morrison then stated a lot of people have asked why has not the mallard been picked for the competition? So, the mallard has been chosen for the species for the 10th anniversary competition. The regulations will be the same as last year except for the possible limited edition that could generate more money for the Department and the artist.

Chairman Babin then recognized Mr. Joe Herring, former Secretary for the Department and Mr. Joe McPherson.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments on the 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons** and none were heard. Mr. Tommy Prickett with the Wildlife Division had some comments. The most controversial issue for the proposed hunting seasons was to move a portion of Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes, formerly in Area 2, into deer hunting Area 3, which is a still hunting only area. Notice was given by the Commission to consider leaving Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes in Area 2. Other recommendations included a squirrel-dog season on Bayou Macon WMA for January 19 through February 8; creating a small still hunting area in Washington Parish; moving a small portion of land around Cotile Lake from Area 2 to Area 3; and a House Concurrent Resolution requesting the Department allow individuals 70 years of age and older to use handicapped ATV trails on the WMAs. Commissioner McCall stated he received over 600 letters on leaving Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes in Area 2 and not moving it to Area 3. He then stated he would have to oppose any such change for the time being or until someone can prove there is a detriment to the deer population. Commissioner Hanchey asked if the two parishes would stay as they were last year? Mr. Prickett answered yes. Commissioner Carver made a motion to accept the recommendations for changes made by Mr. Prickett. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman. Waddill Refuge is a unique and different refuge from any of the other areas because it is an urban refuge and is utilized by a large number of youth as well as single parents. While reviewing the regulations, it was found a provision was left out which dealt with prohibiting the possession of alcoholic beverages by anyone on the refuge. Mr. Bowman asked for a motion adopting the Notice of Intent. Commissioner McCall made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby announces its intent to amend a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861; amended LR 23: .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Philip Bowman, Acting Administrator, Fur and Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 3, 1997.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman for information only. The Department began alligator research on Marsh Island in 1981 and it was expanded in 1986 to include a yearly experimental harvest. Mr. Bowman announced the harvest for this year will include taking 750 alligators from Marsh Island. The objectives of the study include evaluating the survival and growth rates, movement and maturation of farm-raised alligators released into the wild and other sex ratio harvest data and various habitat information. Mr. Bowman asked that the Commission open the meeting for public comments on this issue. Commissioner Carver asked about releasing farm-raised animals back into an environment that is already populated with natural members and if there were any numbers recorded on survivals? Mr. Bowman stated the staff does have numbers available and would provide a copy to him. There were no public comments received on the topic, Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 136 citations.
Region II - Monroe - 177 citations.
Region III - Alexandria - 245 citations.
Region IV - Ferriday - 143 citations.
Region V - Lake Charles - 397 citations.
Region VI - Opelousas - 320 citations.
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 349 citations.
Region VIII - New Orleans - 448 citations.
Region IX - Thibodaux - 256 citations.
Oyster Strike Force - 94 citations.
SWEP - 37 citations.
Seafood Investigative Unit - 61 citations.
Statewide Strike Force - 101 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,639. Chairman Babin asked if the total number was a record? Then he complimented Col. Vidrine and his staff.

The aviation report for May 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 99.5 hours for enforcement and 32.7 hours for other divisions.

Eight Conservation Officers would graduate from the Enforcement Academy the next week, stated Col. Vidrine. Then after July 1, employees from the Wildlife Division could apply for another 20 Conservation Officer positions.

Commissioner McCall asked how many repeat offenders are there in a one year period? He then asked if it would be possible to provide such a report. Commissioner Gattle asked what happens with the items that are confiscated?

For the next item, **Division Reports**, Secretary Jenkins announced that Mr. Phil Bowman was the new Acting Administrator for the Fur & Refuge Division. Chairman Babin congratulated Mr. Bowman and stated he knew he would do a good job.

Commissioner Carver asked Secretary Jenkins what was going on with the Legislature and was there anything pending? Secretary Jenkins stated he has seen an increase in the Legislature trying to take over matters that should be handled by the Commission or Department. The staff was tracking approximately 300 bills that affects just the Department. Secretary Jenkins then explained a bill that would remove the Oyster Division from the Department and place them with the Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Commissioner Carver asked if the bill was still pending? Secretary Jenkins stated yes, it was still pending, it could come up again. The Department has opposed this move from the start, stated Secretary Jenkins. The economic impact of the bill to the Department could amount to a negative \$3.1 million if the transfer occurred. Chairman Babin asked if the Department has an open dialogue with the oyster industry hoping to change their attitude? Secretary Jenkins stated there was a meeting set for the next week with the oyster people in an attempt to resolve some of the problems. Chairman Babin stated he has talked with Mr. Voisin and expressed some of his concerns on the possible move.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **October 1997 Meeting** on Thursday, October 2, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Baton Rouge Headquarters Office.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Gene Mullins, Sulphur, stated he had a problem with the proposed 10 inch minimum on crappie in Toledo Bend. Mr. Bennie Fontenot told Mr. Mullins he does not know of anyone opposed to the regulation. Mr. Mullins stated he has not talked to anyone in

favor of the regulation. He then stated there was a petition with 353 signatures and more to come that would like to see a 25 per day creel limit and not a 10 inch minimum size limit. Another issue Mr. Mullins did not understand was not allowing culling during the months of December through February. If the 10 inch minimum regulation was imposed, the tourism would be affected. He then asked for the regulations on Louisiana's side to stay as they have been. Commissioner Carver asked if there was any biological basis for the proposed regulations or was it just to conform with Texas? Mr. Fontenot explained what steps the proposed regulation has gone through thus far. Then Mr. Fontenot stated the 10 inch minimum was a compromise with Texas. Commissioner Carver asked when would the final ratification occur? Mr. Fontenot stated it probably would occur in August. Mr. Mullins then complained about all of the moss in Toledo Bend. Again, he asked that the regulation be left as it is and maybe look at changing it again sometime in the future.

Chairman Babin thanked everyone for attending the Commission Meeting and encouraged all to attend the Fish Hatchery dedication.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver.


James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

Corrections made 6/23/97
sch

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Mr. Dwight Munchrath, a concerned citizen, stated he attended the Committee Meetings referred to by Mr. Boudreaux. He felt the goose creeping ban allowed the population to grow and the harvest numbers to decrease. The issue is not creeping, but the population and the State of Louisiana needs to take the initiative to manage it properly with the vast resources available. The creeping regulation hampers the proper management of geese in Louisiana, stated Mr. Munchrath. He begged and urged the Commission to repeal the goose creeping regulation. Mr. Munchrath then referred to information he obtained from the Internet that was provided to the Commissioners. Chairman Babin stated the issue was not a 12 year

old creeping on two geese, but the tens of thousands of geese hunters could creep upon that could be crippled or slaughtered. Mr. Munchrath explained a situation where the birds can not be harvested unless they are moving about.

Mr. Art Brazda began referring to the video by Mr. Dave Hall and stated there was a need to teach a total ethical approach to hunting for waterfowl or any other species. He felt there were a lot of other ways of getting the geese and felt decoys was one such device. Mr. Brazda stated he can not go along with something that is unethical such as creeping.

Mr. Steve Oates stated you can shoot geese and stay within the limits by approaching by stealth. Then he stated the Committee referred to by Mr. Boudreaux was not a broad based committee. Mr. Oates then commented the information provided by Mr. Munchrath was broad based and does recognize the change in hunting techniques as a way to deal with the goose problem.

Commissioner Carver stated he knows something needs to be done with the goose population, but repealing the regulation is not the way to do it. Then he asked, if the regulation was repealed, would the image of Louisiana hunters be revitalized? He then commented, from speaking with people all over the world, he has found that the image of the Louisiana hunter is better now than it has been in 20 years due to the good enforcement and the work that has been put into it.

Col. Winton Vidrine stated it was very obvious from a law enforcement standpoint, there are problems enforcing the regulation. He met with Mr. Bill Ferguson, a working federal agent, and Mr. Ferguson asked that the regulation be repealed. Col. Vidrine assured the Commission the laws are being enforced and the violators are under control. He then commented, if the law can not be enforced, take it off the books.

Commissioner McCall made a motion to repeal the goose creeping regulation. The motion died for lack of a second. Then Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to leave the goose creeping regulation as is and have it printed in the hunting pamphlet for the upcoming season. Commissioner Carver seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner McCall opposing.

Mr. Dave Morrison handled the next item, **Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species**. The 1998 competition will be the 10th anniversary with legislation being enacted in 1988 to help with wetlands. Just under \$5 million has been generated from the sale of art prints and stamps. Next Mr. Morrison gave highlights on what the money has been used for. The last few years the numbers of contestants for the competition has declined and so the Department was going to push to make the 1998 competition a special year by getting the artist more involved. The full details

possible
have not been worked out yet, but there may be a commemorative edition stamp or a silent auction. Mr. Morrison then stated a lot of people have asked why has not the mallard been picked for the competition? So, the mallard has been chosen for the species for the 10th anniversary competition. The regulations will be the same as last year except for the limited edition that could generate more money for the Department and the artist.

Chairman Babin then recognized Mr. Joe Herring, former Secretary for the Department and Mr. Joe McPherson.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments on the 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons** and none were heard. *But* Mr. Tommy Prickett with the Wildlife Division had some comments. The most controversial issue for the proposed hunting seasons was to move a portion of Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes, formerly in Area 2, into deer hunting Area 3, which is a still hunting only area. Notice was given by the Commission to consider leaving Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes in Area 2. Other recommendations included a squirrel-dog season on Bayou Macon WMA for January 19 through February 8; creating a small still hunting area in Washington Parish; moving a small portion of land around Cotile Lake from Area 2 to Area 3; and a House Concurrent Resolution requesting the Department allow individuals 70 years of age and older to use handicapped ATV trails on the WMAs. Commissioner McCall stated he received over 600 letters on leaving Calcasieu and Beauregard Parishes in Area 2 and not moving it to Area 3. He then stated he would have to oppose any such change for the time being or until someone can prove there is a detriment to the deer population. *Were* Commissioner Hanchey asked if the two parishes would stay as they ~~was~~ last year? Mr. Prickett answered yes. Commissioner Carver made a motion to accept the recommendations for changes made by Mr. Prickett. Commissioner Hanchey seconded the motion and it passed with no opposition.

Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman. Waddill Refuge is a unique and different refuge from any of the other areas because it is an urban refuge and is utilized by a large number of youth as well as single parents. While reviewing the regulations, it was found a provision was left out which dealt with prohibiting the possession of alcoholic beverages by anyone on the refuge. Mr. Bowman asked for a motion adopting the Notice of Intent. Commissioner McCall made a motion to adopt the Notice of Intent and it was seconded by Commissioner Gattle. The motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of the Notice of Intent is made a part of the record.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby announces its intent to amend a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861; amended LR 23: .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Philip Bowman, Acting Administrator, Fur and Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 3, 1997.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest was presented by Mr. Phil Bowman for information only. The Department began alligator research on Marsh Island in 1981 and it ~~has~~ ^{was} expanded in 1986 to include a yearly experimental harvest. Mr. Bowman announced the harvest for this year will include taking 750 alligators from Marsh Island. The objectives of the study included evaluating the survival and growth rates, movement and maturation of farm-raised alligators released into the wild and other sex ratio harvest data and various habitat information. Mr. Bowman asked that the Commission open the meeting for public comments on this issue. Commissioner Carver asked about releasing farm-raised animals back into an environment that is already populated with natural members and if there were any numbers recorded on survivals? Mr. Bowman stated the staff does have numbers available and would provide a copy to him. There were no public comments received on the topic, Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest.

The **Monthly Law Enforcement Report for May** was given by Col. Winton Vidrine. The following numbers of citations were issued during the month of May.

Region I - Minden - 136 citations.
Region II - Monroe - 177 citations.
Region III - Alexandria - 245 citations.
Region IV - Ferriday - 143 citations.
Region V - Lake Charles - 397 citations.
Region VI - Opelousas - 320 citations.
Region VII - Baton Rouge - 349 citations.
Region VIII - New Orleans - 448 citations.
Region IX - Thibodaux - 256 citations.
Oyster Strike Force - 94 citations.
SWEP - 37 citations.
Seafood Investigative Unit - 61 citations.
Statewide Strike Force - 101 citations.

The grand total of citations issued statewide for the month of May was 2,639. Chairman Babin asked if the total number was a record? Then he complimented Col. Vidrine and his staff.

The aviation report for May 1997 showed enforcement pilots flew three airplanes a total of 99.5 hours for enforcement and 32.7 hours for other divisions.

Eight Conservation Officers would graduate from the Enforcement Academy the next week, stated Col. Vidrine. Then after July 1, employees from the Wildlife Division could apply for another 20 Conservation Officer positions.

Commissioner McCall asked how many repeat offenders are there in a one year period? He then asked if it would be possible to provide such a report. Commissioner Gattle asked what happens with the items that are confiscated?

For the next item, **Division Reports**, Secretary Jenkins announced that Mr. Phil Bowman was the new Acting Administrator for the Fur & Refuge Division. Chairman Babin congratulated Mr. Bowman and stated he knew he would do a good job.

Commissioner Carver asked Secretary Jenkins what was going on with the Legislature and was there anything pending? Secretary Jenkins stated he has seen an increase in the Legislature trying to take over matters that should be handled by the Commission or Department. The staff was tracking approximately 300 bills that affects just the Department. Secretary Jenkins then explained a bill that would remove the Oyster Division from the Department and place them with the Department of Agriculture & Forestry. Commissioner Carver asked if the bill was still pending? Secretary Jenkins stated yes, it was still pending, it could come up again. The Department has opposed this move from the start, stated Secretary Jenkins. The economic impact of the bill to the Department could amount to a negative \$3.1 million if the transfer occurred. Chairman Babin asked if the Department has an open dialogue with the oyster industry hoping to change their attitude? Secretary Jenkins stated there was a meeting set for the next week with the oyster people in an attempt to resolve some of the problems. Chairman Babin stated he has talked with Mr. Voisin and expressed some of his concerns on the possible move.

After several minutes of discussion, the Commissioners decided to hold the **October 1997 Meeting** on Thursday, October 2, 1997 beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Baton Rouge Headquarters Office.

Chairman Babin then asked if there were any **Public Comments**. Mr. Gene Mullins, Sulphur, stated he had a problem with the proposed 10 inch minimum on crappie in Toledo Bend. Mr. Bennie Fontenot told Mr. Mullins he does not know of anyone opposed to the regulation. Mr. Mullins stated he has not talked to anyone in

favor of the regulation. He then stated there was a petition with 353 signatures and more to come that would like to see a 25/day creel limit and not a 10 inch minimum size limit. Another issue Mr. Mullins did not understand was not allowing culling during the months of December through February. If the 10 inch minimum regulation was imposed, the tourism would be affected. He then asked for the regulations on Louisiana's side to stay as they have been. Commissioner Carver asked if there was any biological basis for the proposed regulations or was it just to conform with Texas? Mr. Fontenot explained what steps the proposed regulation has gone through thus far. Then Mr. Fontenot stated the 10 inch minimum was a compromise with Texas. Commissioner Carver asked when would the final ratification occur? Mr. Fontenot stated it probably would occur in August. Mr. Mullins then complained about all of the moss in Toledo Bend. Again, he asked that the regulation be left as it is and maybe look at changing it again sometime in the future. per

Chairman Babin thanked everyone for attending the Commission Meeting and encouraged all to attend the Fish Hatchery dedication.

There being no further business, Commissioner Hanchey made a motion to Adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Carver.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

JHJ:sch

COMMISSION MEETING
ROLL CALL

Friday, June 6, 1997
Woodworth, LA
Alexander State Forest Headquarters

	Attended	Absent
Daniel Babin (Chairman)	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Perry Gisclair	<u> </u>	<u>✓</u>
Tom Gattle	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Glynn Carver	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Joseph Cormier	<u> </u>	<u>✓</u>
Jerald Hanchey	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Norman McCall	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>

Mr. Chairman:

There are 5 Commissioners in attendance and we have a quorum.
Secretary Jenkins is also present.

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
WOODWORTH, LA
June 6, 1997
10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997
3. Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources - David Lavergne/Rob Southwick
4. Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns - Danny Timmer
5. Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species - Dave Morrison
6. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation - James Jenkins, Jr.
7. Public Comments - 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
8. Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations - Phil Bowman
9. Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest (Information Only) - Phil Bowman
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May - Winton Vidrine
11. Division Reports
12. Set October 1997 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

AGENDA

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
WOODWORTH, LA
June 6, 1997
10:00 AM

- ✓1. Roll Call
- ✓2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997
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The Economic Benefits of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources in the State of Louisiana

Southwick Associates

The fish, wildlife and boating resources of Louisiana are substantial. Hundreds of thousands depend on the resources for recreation, work and as a source of nourishment. Actively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, these resources not only contribute to the standard of living and economic health of state residents, they also contribute significantly through state tax revenues. The major activities based on Louisiana's fish, wildlife and boating resources, and examples of their economic contributions in 1996, are summarized in the following table.

Summary Table: Economic Impacts of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources, Louisiana, 1996.				
	Retail Sales (million \$)	Total Economic Effect (million \$)	Jobs (Number)	State Sales Tax & Inc Tax Revenues (million \$)
Recreational Hunting	389.2	758.5	9,800	20.8
Recreational Fishing	790.0	1,600.0	18,400	38.5
Non-Consumptive Fish & Wildlife Recreation	253.3	512.3	6,800	21.0
Recreational Boating	1,500.0	3,000.0	26,600	72.6
Commercial Fishing: *	2,100.0	2,800.0	31,400	107.0
Alligator Harvests	23.0	40.2	430	1.2
Reptile & Amphibian Collection	1.3	2.5	20	0.1
Fur Harvest	1.4	2.5	36	0.1
TOTAL	5,047.0	8,700.0	93,500	261.0

* Retail sales in Commercial Fishing include dockside sales of \$315.8 million and sales at the processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels.

THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

AT A GLANCE

May, 1997

132,000 MEMBERS IN 50 STATES AND 8 FOREIGN COUNTRIES

890 CHAPTERS IN 50 STATES AND CANADA

**NWTF SUPER FUND MEMBERSHIP BANQUETS
WILL NET \$9 MILLION FOR PROGRAMS IN 1997**

**MORE THAN 4,900 *STATE* SUPER FUND PROJECTS INVOLVING \$51.5
MILLION NWTF AND COOPERATOR DOLLARS HAVE BEEN FUNDED**

**OVER \$11.0 MILLION HAS BEEN SPENT ON OVER 875
NATIONAL PROJECTS**

**MORE THAN 9,000 WILD TURKEYS RELOCATED WITH NWTF
ASSISTANCE AS PART OF ITS RESTORATION EFFORTS**

**MORE THAN \$3.75 MILLION SPENT FOR WILD TURKEY PROJECTS
THROUGH THE *MAKING TRACKS* COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE NWTF AND THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SINCE 1986**

***TOTAL NWTF WILD TURKEY SUPER FUND
EXPENDITURES EXCEED \$63 MILLION
ON OVER 5,800 PROJECTS SINCE 1977***

**THE NWTF AMERICAN WILD TURKEY HUNTING HERITAGE
PROGRAM HAS PROVIDED \$158,000 IN SUPPORT TO
ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN TRADITIONAL WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT AND HUNTING ADVOCACY**

**IN 1973, THERE WERE AN ESTIMATED 1.3 MILLION WILD
TURKEYS
AND 1.5 MILLION TURKEY HUNTERS. TODAY, THERE ARE AN
ESTIMATED 4.2 MILLION WILD TURKEYS AND APPROXIMATELY
2.5 MILLION TURKEY HUNTERS**

The National Wild Turkey Federation

History, Purpose and Programs

May, 1997

HISTORY - The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) was incorporated as a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation and education organization in Fredericksburg, Virginia in 1973. The Federation moved its headquarters to Edgefield, South Carolina that same year. It remains there today, housed in the Wild Turkey Center.

The Federation is a grass-roots, volunteer organization, governed by a 18-member Board of Directors. Departments within the NWTF include Administration, Field Operations and Membership Development, Marketing and Materials Management, Communications, and Conservation Programs. Department Vice Presidents or Directors report to the Executive Vice President and CEO who, in turn, reports to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

NWTF volunteers are organized in a State and Local Chapter system. South Carolina was chartered as the first NWTF State Chapter in 1974; the Georgia and Kentucky State Chapters received charters later that same year. Currently, there are 50 State and Provincial Chapters with 890 Local Chapters in the NWTF chapter system. **There were about 1,300 Federation members by years- end 1973 compared to 132,000 members in June, 1996 (Figure 1).**

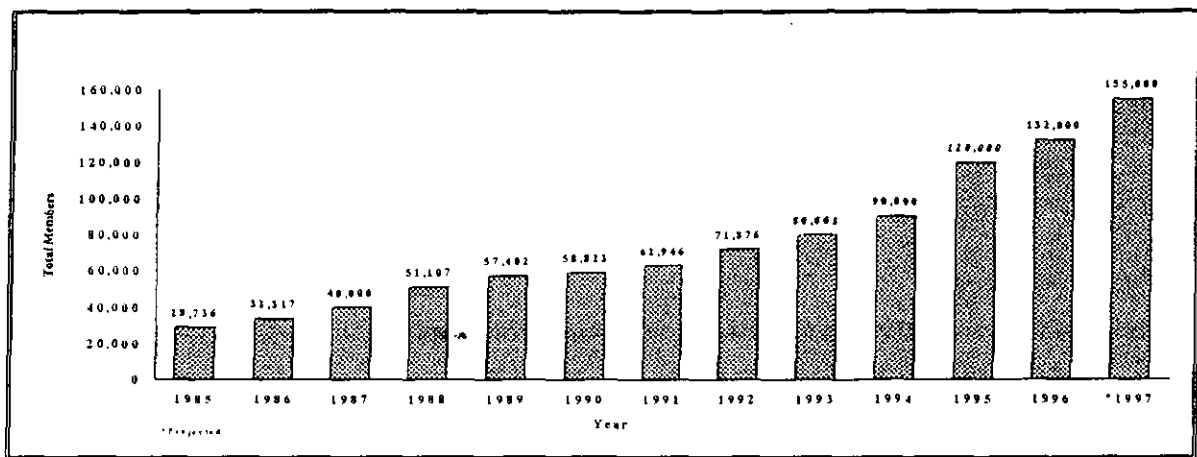


Figure 1. NWTF Membership Growth, 1985-1997.

PURPOSE - The mission statement of the National Wild Turkey Federation clearly defines its purpose: the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of the turkey hunting tradition. Focusing on the wild turkey but benefiting many natural resources, the NWTF accomplishes its conservation mission by working on many fronts, forging relationships and uniting diverse groups toward common goals. Educational programs aimed at diverse populations are also important aspects of the organization's purpose. Land managers, researchers, conservationists and outdoors enthusiasts, both present and future, benefit from the Federation's activities.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS - The Federation supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands. NWTF founders showed great foresight in recognizing the

need to establish a *Technical Committee* consisting of wild turkey biologists who could make recommendations on research, management, restoration and educational programs. The original Committee had members representing 35 states; today's Technical Committee has 70 members representing 49 states and 1 Canadian province. A paper entitled "The role of non-governmental organizations in game bird conservation," delivered at the 59th North American Wildlife Conference (Anchorage, AK. 1994) stated:

The National Wild Turkey Federation was considered the most effective in supporting agency management and research programs. Similarly, NWTF ranked the highest when the relative frequency and quality of the interaction were considered on both a per state and nationwide basis. We believe this favorable ranking is in part due to the establishment of a Technical Committee which consists of a representative appointed by each state conservation agency, and meets with scientists from various universities at the NWTF Annual Convention. This interaction of professional managers, researchers, and NWTF Staff provides a well balanced perspective of short- and long-term issues.

Wild Turkey Partnership Agreements are also important to the success of the NWTF's programs. These memoranda of understanding between the Federation and its government and corporate partners create working relationships that facilitate wild turkey and other natural resource research, management and conservation on public, private and corporate lands. Forty-nine state agencies, 4 federal agencies, 13 forest product companies, 18 utility companies, 5 coal associations and a phosphate company have signed Partnership Agreements with the NWTF to date. These Agreements positively impact wildlife management on millions of acres of land and thousands of miles of rights-of-way.

Federation wildlife professionals have conducted 17 wild turkey management workshops for these partners in the two years, providing information to foresters and other land managers about integrating state-of-the-art wildlife management strategies into their forest and open land management programs.

Target 2000 is the cooperative initiative among state and federal wildlife agencies and the National Wild Turkey Federation to restore wild turkeys to all remaining unoccupied habitat in the U.S. by the year 2000. To accomplish this goal, the NWTF is coordinating intrastate and interstate trap and transfer of wild turkeys among its many partners. This project, using both the NWTF State and National Super Funds, has facilitated the relocation of more than 9,000 wild turkeys through March, 1997. Wild turkeys occupied thirty percent more range in 1995 than they did in 1990.

National Wild Turkey Symposia are hosted by the Federation every 5 years; the seventh symposium was held in May, 1995 in Rapid City, South Dakota. These symposia provide professional wildlife managers and researchers the opportunity to review current research and management concepts relating to wild turkeys. The NWTF coordinates publication of the proceedings of these conferences. Of the thirty research projects reported on at the seventh symposium, twenty received financial support from the Federation. The NWTF coordinated publication of the symposia proceedings.

The National Wild Turkey Federation's conservation and education programs are funded through the Wild Turkey Super Fund, established as the result of a 1985 Strategic Planning Team's efforts. This fund is an account that pools monies generated by NWTF chapters and individual, government and corporate contributors into *State* and *National* Super Funds jointly

administered by the NWTF, its state chapters and their respective wildlife agencies. Joint administration with state agencies assures funding for projects that are most likely to enhance the state's long range plans for management of its natural resources. Federation staff handles the accounting and daily administration of the Wild Turkey Super Fund, ensuring accountability even with changes in volunteer leadership and protecting the interests of all parties. The Wild Turkey Super Fund manual details this program.

State Super Fund Projects are priority projects as determined by the NWTF State Chapter and their respective wildlife agency. These projects include habitat management (e.g. planting of wildlife openings), education (e.g. creating awareness of turkey management concepts), youth activities hunter safety and restoration. **The first State Project, costing \$3,292, was initiated in 1985; 4,900 more State Projects involving \$51.5 million NWTF and Cooperator dollars have been funded since then.**

National Super Fund Projects are broader in scope and implication than State Projects. They can take the form, for example, of research grants to support University research or as a publication that can be used by government and corporate biologists as a management reference tool. The Federation awarded its first research grant of \$2,900 in 1977. Since then, **the organization has spent over 11.0 million NWTF and Cooperator dollars on 875 National Projects.**

The National Wild Turkey Federation and its cooperators' expenditures exceed \$63 million (Figure 2) on more than 5,800 wild turkey and other natural resource research, management and educational programs since 1977 (Figure 3).

In the first 6 months of 1996, more State Super Fund Projects were funded than all of 1994.

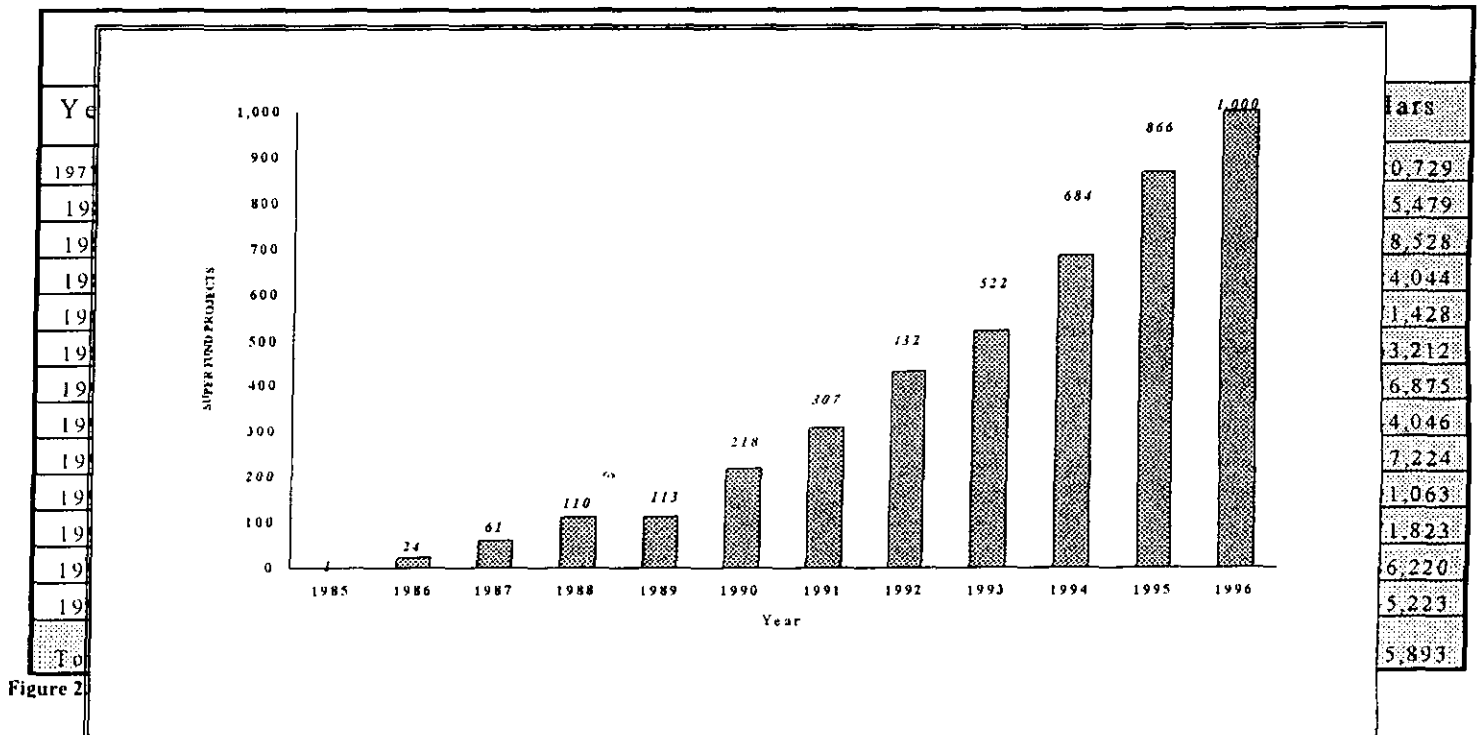


Figure 3. Number of State Super Fund projects funded annually, 1985-1995.

Making Tracks is the partnership agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Since 1986, 400 projects between the Forest Service, the NWTF and numerous state agencies were completed at a cost of \$3.75 million. Projects involving *National Super Fund* dollars included establishing walk-in areas, planting wildlife openings, developing water resources and conducting prescription fires. Projects involving *State*

Super Fund monies included co-hosting Youth events with NWTF Chapters and support for the Gould's wild turkey reintroduction in Arizona. The Federation also recently hosted a meeting between the Forest Service and 16 of its Conservation Partners at The Wild Turkey Center.

NWTF Publications are important tools created for public and private land wildlife managers as well as for wild turkey hunters and other outdoors enthusiasts. "The Wild Turkey: Biology and Management" is an award winning monograph detailing the state-of-the-art knowledge about the wild turkey. The NWTF is publishing a series of publications, "The NWTF Wildlife Bulletin" that detail strategies and methods for wild turkey managers, as well "The Guide to the American Wild Turkey," the standard reference on wild turkey population locations and density estimates, hunting seasons and regulations, and agency contacts. Other Federation publications include regional planting guides for wildlife openings and a variety of hunter safety and ethics brochures. *Turkey Call* and *The Caller* are the NWTF's membership publications.

Project Help (Habitat Enhancement Land Program) is an NWTF program developed to assist landowners with their wildlife habitat programs by providing guidance on creating and maintaining openings and other essential habitat components on their land, as well by providing seeds and seedlings for habitat enhancement at very competitive prices. "Managing Openings for Wild Turkeys and Other Wildlife", a planting guide, is in its second printing. Seed and seedling gross sales through this program now exceed \$1.2 million since 1990; over half of those sales have occurred in the past two years. An annual catalog has been developed to enhance this successful program.

"Hands On" projects are hallmarks of the Federation's grass-roots approach to conservation. NWTF chapter members have spent thousands of hours planting, pruning and cultivating wildlife habitat, primarily on public land.

The NWTF Wild Turkey Library and Bibliography Service provide quick access to the scientific and popular literature about the wild turkey to wildlife professionals, outdoor writers and wild turkey enthusiasts. The NWTF library maintains a complete collection of the scientific literature relating to wild turkey research and management.

"PRESERVING THE HUNTING TRADITION" PROGRAMS:

The National Wild Turkey Federation has a long history of supporting and developing hunter education and safety programs. NWTF Chapters and staff have been holding wild turkey hunter safety and ethics educational seminars since the mid-1970's. The Federation's 1992 Strategic Planning Team identified the anti-hunting and animal-rights movements as serious threats not only to the NWTF mission, but also wildlife conservation in general. In response to that finding, the organization amended its mission statement to include "the preservation of the turkey hunting tradition." Specific safety, education and preservation programs include:

The NWTF Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force convened in March 1992. Task Force members, including NWTF Staff and volunteers, professional hunter education specialists, psychologists, and representatives from the hunting products industry created an action plan and identified specific action items directed towards making wild turkey hunting a safer sport. All of the action items have been addressed; many have become comprehensive programs sponsored or developed by the Federation and its Partners. Over 1 million pieces of hunter safety literature have been distributed to date.

Turkey Hunting Safety Publications include a variety of brochures, posters and videos describing safe, ethical hunting practices. These are available to chapters at no cost and to agencies at a nominal fee. More than a million pieces have been distributed since 1992.

Consulting by NWTF staff members on hunting safety issues has been valuable to a number of agencies. Past staff appointments include membership on the Connecticut Governor's Task Force on Hunting and Public Safety and the Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife Board's

Turkey Hunting Safety Committee. The Federation, working with the Hunter Education Association, has created a uniform Turkey Hunting Incident Report Form that will enable the NWTF to maintain detailed records of turkey hunting accidents that are comparable to those of other states. State-to-state comparisons will facilitate examinations of states with low versus high accident rates, leading to determinations of the safest hunting regulations practices.

The Wild Turkey Interactive Training System is the result of a specific Task Force Action Item directed at developing a simulated "shoot-don't shoot" situation that would enhance educational efforts. This portable system places students in hunting situations, via state-of-the-art video and computer technologies, giving them the opportunity to make decisions related to safe and ethical hunting practices. Their decisions can be scored and evaluated. This system, modeled after police and military firearms training systems, is the first of its kind and was unveiled in 1994 at the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies meeting in Bismarck, ND. This \$200,000 project was developed with a \$130,000 challenge grant to the NWTF by the Ohio Division of Wildlife which was matched by the Federation.

Turkey Hunting Educational Seminars are conducted for the public hundreds of times each year by NWTF Chapters, using a variety of materials provided by the Federation at little or no cost.

The NWTF American Hunting Heritage Fund enhances the Federation's ability to support organizations directly involved in preserving traditional wildlife management of public land and hunting advocacy. Support by the NWTF to other groups includes:

1993 - Wildlife Legislative Fund of America - \$10,000	
United Conservation Alliance	- 10,000
Putting People First	- 10,000
1994 - Wildlife Legislative Fund of America	- 10,000
3rd Governors' Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage	- 8,000
United Conservation Alliance	- 5,000
Congressional Sportsmens Caucus	- 5,000
National Trappers Association	- 1,000
1995 - Wildlife Partners Network	- 15,000
Wildlife Legislative Fund of America	- 10,000
4th Governor's Symposium on North America's Hunting Heritage	- 8,000
Congressional Sportsmens Caucus	- 5,000
National Trappers Association	- 1,000
1996 - U.S.A. Shooting Team	- 20,000
Wildlife Legislative Fund of America	- 10,000
Wildlife Partners Network	- 10,000
Isaac Walton League	- 5,000
Congressional Sportsmans Caucus Fdn.	- 5,000
National Shooting Sports Foundation	- 5,000
California Sportsman's Lobby, Inc.	- 1,000
Sportsmen's Heritage Defense Fund	- 2,000
Citizens for Professional Wildlife Mgmt	- 1,000
National Trappers Association	- 1,000
TOTAL	- \$158,000 TO DATE

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

The National Wild Turkey Federation's original purpose was solely directed at impacting the wild turkey and other wildlife populations through research and management programs, and "on the ground" efforts are still a major focus. In recent years, however, the NWTF board of directors and staff realized that a lasting impact on those natural resources could only be effected through educational outreach efforts directed at human populations. Historically, the conservation and outdoors arenas were adult white male oriented. Today, the Federation is working to diversify the groups actively involved in natural resources conservation efforts through several programs.

Increasing women's participation in outdoor activities is a focus of the National Wild Turkey Federation. In 1995, the Federation was listed as a major sponsor of "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" programs in South Carolina and Kentucky, and brought the director of that program to its national headquarters to increase the organization's national and regional staffs awareness of concerns relating to women and outdoors-related issues. Women are also increasing their participation in NWTF fund-raising events; there are now several women's NWTF fund raising committees nationwide.

Young-of-the-year wild turkey males are called "jakes" by many wild turkey enthusiasts. NWTF Youth Members (boys and girls aged 17 and under) are also called JAKES, an acronym standing for Juniors Acquiring Knowledge, Ethics and Sportsmanship. The Federation's chapters are placing special emphasis on creating educational programs geared to these special members, and NWTF staffers are developing educational publications for them. An instructional guide to conducting youth events has also been developed to facilitate volunteer involvement in NWTF youth programs. **Youth membership has increased from 833 JAKES in 1988 to 32,000 in 1996 (Figure 4).**

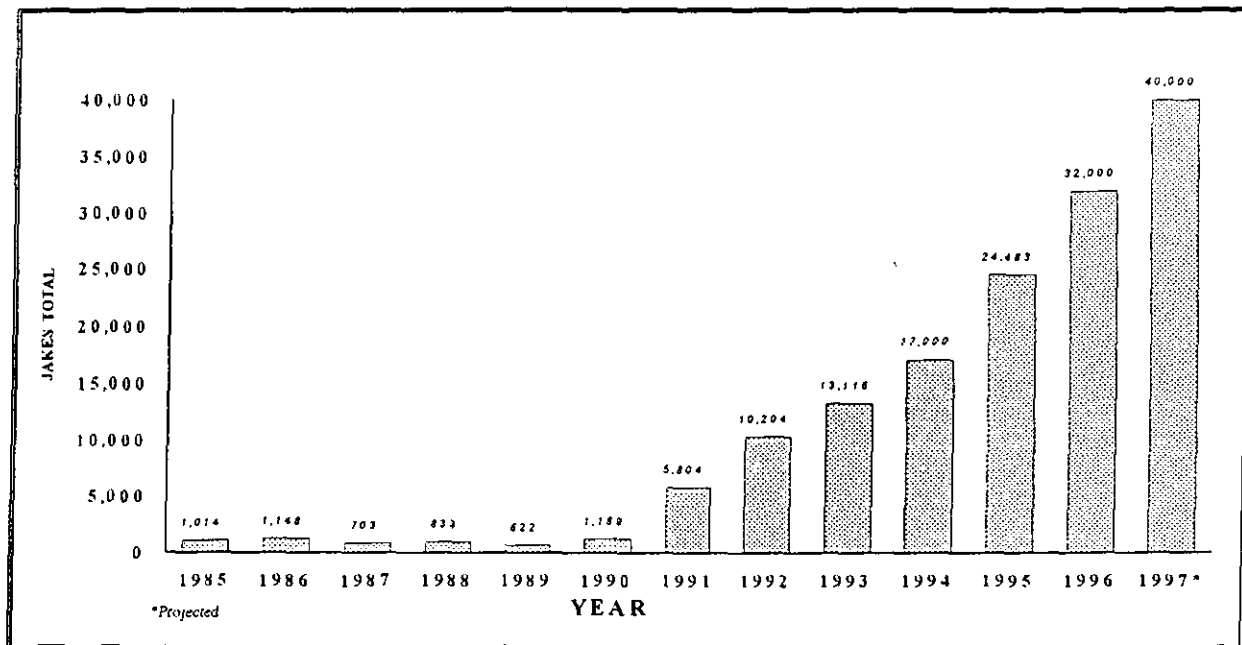


Figure 4. NWTF JAKES membership levels, 1985-1997.

The U.S. Forest Service has co-hosted a variety of JAKES events on National Forest lands with NWTF chapters, reaching thousands of children annually. The Federation's National Convention, which is held in a different city each year, also affords an opportunity for outreach to young people; more than 5,000 inner-city young people have been brought to the convention for special youth conservation and outdoors-related educational programs since 1990.

AWARDS - Recent awards to the Federation include the Outdoor Writers Association of America Mountain of Jade Award (1987) "for distinguished effort to improve the quality of America's great outdoors and thus add to the enjoyment of all outdoor people," The Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award (1988), The Chevron Conservation Award (1990) "in recognition of exceptional service in the cause of conservation," and the Southeast Section of The Wildlife Society's Outstanding Book Award (1993).

FUNDING - The NWTF is funded by membership dues, tax-deductible contributions, wildlife-related merchandise sales, and by the dollars raised through the auctions and raffles occurring at Wild Turkey Super Fund Membership Dinners. The first dinner, held in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1983, netted \$5,000 for the NWTF's conservation programs. **Six hundred NWTF banquets netted \$6.1 million for programs in 1995 (Figure 5).**

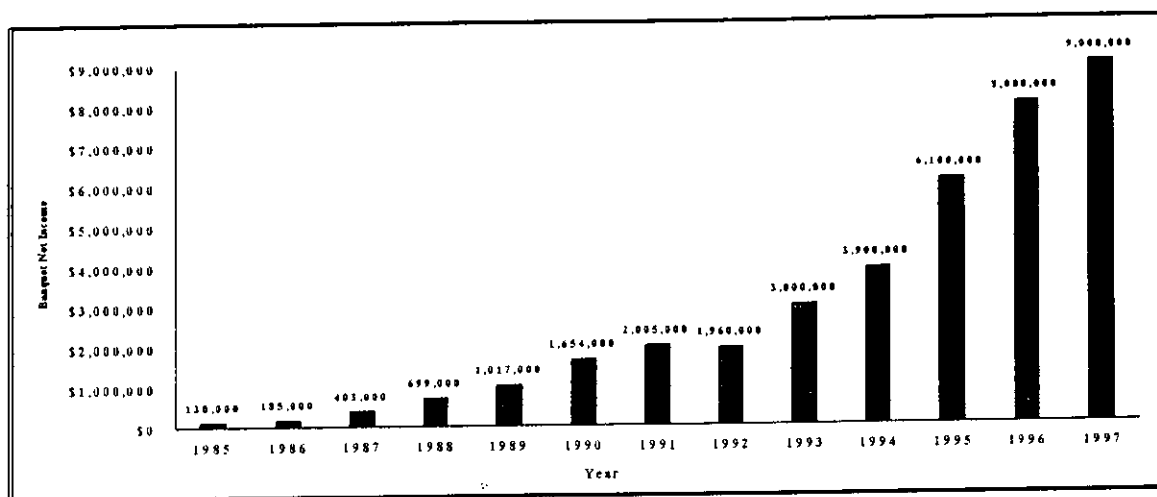


Figure 5. NWTF Banquet Program Net Income growth, 1985-1996.

Fifteen percent of net proceeds of a Super Fund Membership Dinner are used to support the regional services of the NWTF. The remaining net proceeds are divided five ways:

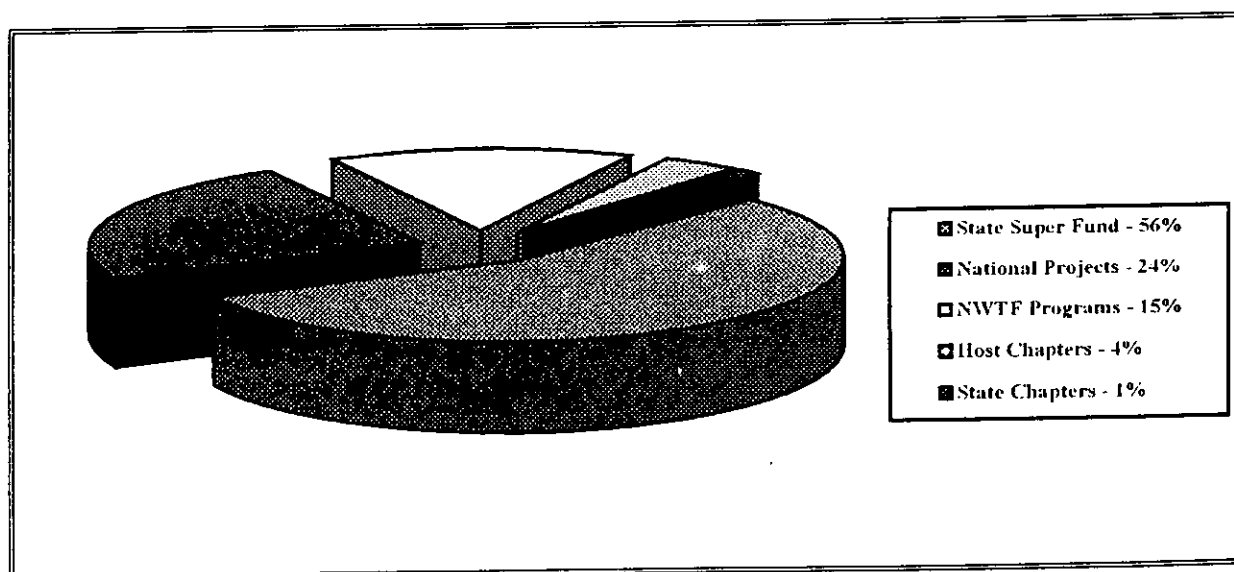


Figure 6. Five-way split of funds generated by an NWTF Super Fund Membership Dinner after expenses.

Report to LDWF Commission

Year	Project Type	Amount	Subtotal	Project Description
1990	education	\$3,600.00		printing of La wild turkey publication
1993	education	\$85.10		hunter safety products
1993	education	\$1,000.00		support of American Hunting Heritage Fund
1994	education	\$174.78		300 Jakes activity books
1994	education	\$2,350.00		sponsorship of Outdoor News Program
1994	education	\$1,000.00		support of American Hunting Heritage Fund
1994	education	\$363.64		printing of pocket hunting calendars & dates
1996	education	\$106.60		printing of turkey hunter survey cards for Jackson-Blenville & Bodcau WMAs
1996	education	\$3,928.00		display for educational activities
1995	education	\$1,500.00		sponsorship of Outdoor News TV show
1996	education	\$2,099.78		hunter safety billboards (LA chapter)
1996	education	\$588.01		hunter safety billboards (LA chapter)
1996	education	\$1,000.00	\$17,794.79	support of American Hunting Heritage Fund
1994	equipment	\$289.33		utility trailer for turkey trapping
1994	equipment	\$1,816.00		walkie-talkie radios for turkey trapping
1995	equipment	\$4,000.00		computer & printer for regional director
1996	equipment	\$425.00	\$6,630.33	fertilizer & seed spreader for use on Tunica Hills WMA
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$1,000.00		seed - Evangeline RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement	\$73.90		clover seed for wild openings on Alex State Forest WMA
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$1,700.00		planting of 16 ac of firelanes & roads to winter seed mixture on Caney RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$1,500.00		planting of wildlife openings on Winn RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$1,417.00		wildlife food strips on Vernon RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$1,500.00		habitat enhancement on the Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$2,000.00		planting of wildlife openings in walk-in hunting areas on Catahoula RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement	\$1,623.30		760 lbs chufa for planting on state WMAs
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Catahoula RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Winn RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Vernon RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Evangeline RD, Kisatchie NF
1992	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on 38 ac on Caney RD, Kisatchie NF
1993	habitat enhancement	\$4,633.00		2000 lbs chufa for planting on state WMAs
1993	habitat enhancement	\$682.60		200 lbs chufa for habitat enhancement projects
1993	habitat enhancement	\$3,920.00		habitat enhancement project on Bodcau WMA
1993	habitat enhancement	\$262.11		seed for wildlife openings on Camp Bezauregard WMA
1994	habitat enhancement	\$4,703.20		2000 lbs chufa
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Winn RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Catahoula RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Evangeline RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Caney RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Vernon RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement *	\$2,124.79		enhancing Fall season wildlife openings on Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1994	habitat enhancement	\$2,381.62		seed & fertilizer for Fall & Winter wildlife openings on Jackson-Blenville WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$3,264.20		acorns & other tree seed for reforestation project on 3700 ac tract
1996	habitat enhancement	\$3,642.09		2000 lbs chufa for planting on WMAs
1996	habitat enhancement	\$280.00		American elm seed for planting on state WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$1,466.80		tree seed for planting on state WMAs
1995	habitat enhancement *	\$894.82		habitat enhancement project continuation on Catahoula RD, Kisatchie NF
1995	habitat enhancement *	\$2,411.38		habitat enhancement project continuation on Evangeline RD, Kisatchie NF
1995	habitat enhancement *	\$1,211.38		habitat enhancement project continuation on Winn RD, Kisatchie NF
1995	habitat enhancement *	\$1,150.98		habitat enhancement project continuation on Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement	\$2,000.00		fertilizer for Jackson - Blenville WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$6,000.00		establish wildlife openings on Grassy Lake WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$6,700.00		planting of 114 ac to enhance wildlife habitat on Boef WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$3,160.00		reforestation of 114 ac of agricultural land on Boef WMA
1996	habitat enhancement	\$6,336.00		for 38200 seedlings to be planted on 180 ac on Boef WMA
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Caney RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$2,319.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Winn RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Kisatchie RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$1,931.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Evangeline RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$1,212.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Catahoula RD, Kisatchie NF
1996	habitat enhancement *	\$2,500.00		habitat enhancement project continuation on Vernon RD, Kisatchie NF
1991	habitat enhancement *	\$448.80	\$109,217.75	1000 walk-in use signs
1990	management *	\$410.58		1000 walk-in use signs for Kisatchie NF
1990	management *	\$447.24		1000 walk-in signs
1996	management	\$1,200.00		signs for WMAs
1996	management	\$1,200.00	\$3,267.60	6 "turkey habitat improvement" signs for LA WMAs
1992	other	\$1,440.00		chapter development transfer to building fund account
1994	other	\$1,250.00		chapter development
1994	other	\$1,803.00	\$4,493.00	chapter development
1989	replacement cost	\$16,000.00		for 30 turkeys from SC
1989	replacement cost	\$1,204.17		shipping for 31 turkeys from SC to LA
1989	replacement cost	\$487.60		390 turkey transport boxes
1991	replacement cost	\$9,000.00		for 18 turkeys from AL
1992	replacement cost	\$6,000.00		for 10 turkeys from AL
1992	replacement cost	\$260.00		target 2000 admin for 10 turkeys from AL
1993	replacement cost	\$6,600.00		for 11 turkeys from AL
1993	replacement cost	\$17,328.00		for 33 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$6,000.00		for 10 turkeys from AR

Report to LDWF Commission

1993	replacement cost	\$16,900. 00		for 34 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$6,000. 00		for 10 turkeys from WI
1993	replacement cost	\$8,778. 00		for 11 turkeys from WI
1994	replacement cost	\$114. 88		shipping for 3 turkeys from CT to LA
1994	replacement cost	\$813. 34		shipping for 14 turkeys from CT to LA
1994	replacement cost	\$2,600. 00		for 6 turkeys from AR
1994	replacement cost	\$8,400. 00		for 17 turkeys from CT
1994	replacement cost	\$6,000. 00		for 12 turkeys from AL
1994	replacement cost	\$860. 00		coordinator costs for 34 wild turkeys
1996	replacement cost	\$3,600. 00		for 7 turkeys from AR
1996	replacement cost	\$8,000. 00		for 16 turkeys from AL
1996	replacement cost	\$8,000. 00		for 10 turkeys from AL
1996	replacement cost	\$658. 77		shipping for 12 turkeys from Iowa
1996	replacement cost	\$6,000. 00	\$127,878. 66	for 12 turkeys from Iowa
1991	rewards	\$314. 00		2000 reward signs
1991	rewards	\$300. 00		reward pymt
1991	rewards	\$600. 00		2 reward pymts
1992	rewards	\$300. 00		reward pymt
1993	rewards	\$860. 00		2000 reward signs
1996	rewards	\$3,600. 00		support of Operation Game Thief (LA chapter)
1996	rewards	\$871. 44	\$7,048. 44	1000 reward signs
1989	travel expenses	\$144. 00		tech committee member to attend NWTF annual conference (TN)
1991	travel expenses	\$508. 17		state chap president to attend chapter presidents' workshop in SC
1992	travel expenses	\$144. 82		tech committee member to attend SE turkey mtg in MS
1993	travel expenses	\$217. 50		registration - state chap representative to attend NWTF convention in KY
1993	travel expenses	\$127. 00		travel - state chap representative to attend NWTF convention in KY
1993	travel expenses	\$341. 00		travel - state board member to attend NWTF convention in KY
1994	travel expenses	\$846. 94		state chap president to attend NWTF convention in TN
1994	travel expenses	\$364. 80		for chap presidents' mtg in SC
1994	travel expenses	\$338. 00		for chap presidents' mtg in SC
1994	travel expenses	\$367. 00		for chap presidents' mtg in SC
1995	travel expenses	\$800. 00		state chap president attendance at NWTF convention in TN
1995	travel expenses	\$220. 00		tech committee member attendance at NWTF convention in TN
1995	travel expenses	\$315. 59		state chap president attendance at NWTF convention in TN
1996	travel expenses	\$290. 50		state chap president to NWTF convention in GA
1996	travel expenses	\$58. 38		tech committee member to NWTF convention in GA
1996	travel expenses	\$1,113. 45	\$5,795. 13	state chap president to NWTF annual convention in GA
	Total Expenditures	\$282,012. 90		
	Expenditures on State projects	\$197,748. 19		
	Expenditures on USFS in LA *	\$61,178. 93		
	LWTF State Chapter Development	\$23,087. 78		

1997 REPORTED TURKEY HARVEST BY DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1 - MINDEN

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Caddo	1	0	0 (100%)
Bossier	48	35 (73%)	13 (27%)
Webster	23	17 (74%)	6 (26%)
DeSoto	8	8 (100%)	0
Red River	5	5 (100%)	0
Bienville	78	47 (60%)	31 (14%)
Claiborne	51	34 (66%)	17 (34%)
TOTAL	214	146 (68%)	68 (32%)

DISTRICT 2 - MONROE

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
E. Carroll	closed		
Lincoln	62	43 (69%)	19 (31%)
Union	104*	57 (55%)	24 (45%)
Morehouse	19	18 (95%)	1 (5%)
Jackson	37	23 (62%)	14 (38%)
TOTAL	122	141 (64%)	58 (36%)

DISTRICT 3 - ALEXANDRIA

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Grant	34	16 (47%)	18 (53%)
Natchitoches	42	24 (57%)	18 (43%)
Rapides	42	21 (50%)	21 (50%)
Sabine	11	9 (82%)	2 (18%)
LaSalle	18	8 (44%)	10 (56%)
TOTAL	147	78 (53%)	69 (47%)

DISTRICT 4 - FERRIDAY

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Caldwell	9	9 (100%)	0
Concordia	0	0	0
Franklin	6	6 (100%)	0
Madison	8	8 (100%)	0
Tensas	23	11 (48%)	12 (52%)
TOTAL	46	34 (74%)	12 (26%)

* Data sheet with 23 turkeys was lost. % figured on 81 turkeys.

DISTRICT 5 - LAKE CHARLES

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Allen	7	6 (96%)	1 (14%)
Beauregard	1	0	1 (100%)
Vernon	56	40 (71%)	16 (29%)
Calcasieu	0	0	0
TOTAL	64	46 (72%)	18 (28%)

DISTRICT 6 - OPELOUSAS

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Avoyelles	closed		
Iberville	103	87 (84%)	16 (16%)
Point Coupee	19	16 (84%)	3 (16%)
St. Landry	10	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
St. Martin	30	18 (60%)	12 (40%)
W. Baton Rouge	22	19 (86%)	3 (14%)
TOTAL	184	145 (79%)	39 (21%)

DISTRICT 7 - BATON ROUGE

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>TOTAL HARVEST</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
Ascension	3	3 (100%)	0
E. Baton Rouge	17	14 (82%)	3 (18%)
E. Feliciana	40	31 (77%)	9 (23%)
W. Feliciana	61	49 (80%)	12 (20%)
Livingston	105	70 (67%)	35 (33%)
St. Helena	75	52 (69%)	23 (31%)
St. Tammany	18	13 (72%)	5 (28%)
Tangipahoa	29	18 (62%)	11 (38%)
Washington	170	131 (77%)	39 (23%)
TOTAL	518	381 (73%)	137 (27%)

STATEWIDE TOTALS

<u>TOTAL HARVEST CHECKED</u>	<u>ADULTS (%)</u>	<u>JUVENILE (%)</u>
1395	971 (70%)	401 (30%)

REPORTED SPRING TURKEY HARVEST (VOLUNTARY)

PARISH	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
ALLEN	7	1	3	0	1	5	2	1	4	7
ASCENSION	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
ASSUMPTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AVOUELLES	0	0	14	46	20	39	79	24	20	closed
BEAUREGARD	18	13	12	5	6	1	9	4	1	1
BIENVILLE	25	21	15	11	20	31	59	36	37	78
BOSSIER	0	2	3	83	45	18	14	5	48	48
CADDO	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
CALCASIEU	6	7	1	5	3	7	0	1	0	0
CALDWELL	8	8	21	5	1	6	13	9	4	9
CATAHOULA	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CLAIBORNE	9	7	22	27	32	35	19	36	33	51
CONCORDIA	0	0	1	0	44	86	71	29	42	0
DESOTO	0	0	0	1	4	3	1	1	1	8
E. BATON ROUGE	26	28	32	4	5	11	34	17	12	17
E. CARROLL	40	71	33	35	19	29	29	26	9	closed
E. FELICIANA	165	120	86	52	15	28	48	46	39	40
EVANGELINE	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	8	1	1	1	3	2	5	4	0	6
GRANT	28	32	16	41	25	21	37	27	25	34
IBERVILLE	32	66	45	46	55	29	72	140	120	103
JACKSON	8	9	4	4	1	5	0	0	31	37
JEFF DAVIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LASALLE	6	4	4	4	2	2	7	2	10	18
LINCOLN	0	2	1	2	0	31	27	23	49	62
LIVINGSTON	42	190	165	69	68	35	82	82	95	104
MADISON	28	37	25	29	20	18	13	5	6	8
MOREHOUSE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	19
NATCHITOCHES	35	17	34	35	35	28	32	19	30	42
OUACHITA	6	4	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
POINT COUPEE	27	29	37	27	24	43	47	45	28	19
RAPIDES	101	88	55	44	28	22	28	18	14	42
RED RIVER	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5
RICHLAND	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SABINE	5	2	9	2	1	2	0	0	15	11
ST. HELENA	228	163	158	116	92	72	83	74	68	75
ST. LANDRY	26	34	30	10	10	18	25	12	13	10
ST. MARTIN	8	2	12	17	21	21	36	93	44	30
ST. TAMMANY	42	62	25	40	37	22	31	0	26	18
TANGIPAHOA	94	104	74	62	65	36	48	42	37	29
TENSAS	21	75	44	43	26	47	28	19	18	23
UNION						11	7	12	45	104
VERNON	110	103	72	81	46	91	41	27	37	56
WASHINGTON	120	129	134	138	86	125	137	117	171	170
WEBSTER	0	0	0	21	11	5	56	8	13	23
W. BATON ROUGE	89	86	89	60	34	38	77	58	51	22
W. FELICIANA	140	213	231	148	105	102	94	116	67	61
WINN	4	4	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	closed
TOTALS	1514	1720	1520	1317	1013	1127	1391	1179	1279	1395

1997 TURKEY HUNTING SEASON REPORT

The attached map provides the different turkey hunting areas and season dates for 1997.

This past Spring our statewide turkey hunting success ranged from “much improved” to poor, depending on who you talked to and where they hunted. The information gathered on the 16 WMAs that provided some turkey hunting opportunity indicated that success was about the same as in 1996 on 9 areas and much improved on 7. Due to flooding problems, 5 WMAs were closed entirely for the 1997 season. In spite of these closures, the total harvest in 1997 was 221 gobblers, down only 10 birds from the total recorded in 1996.

The volunteer check stations across the state recorded a total of 1,395 birds which is the best since 1990 and up by 117 birds over 1996. Most important was that the percentage of young gobblers checked was up at most locations. WMA kill data also indicated reproduction was better than expected in 1996 and resulted in more young gobblers in the harvest.

In general the West and Central portions of Louisiana experienced good hunting success while the Northern and Eastern areas could be characterized as having only average success. We will be bringing to you recommendations for the 1998 Spring turkey hunting seasons at the July 8th meeting in Baton Rouge.

TURKEY SEASON 1997

Area 'A' Mar. 22 - Apr. 27

Area 'B' Apr. 12 - Apr. 27

Area 'C' Mar. 22 - Mar. 30

Area "C" Mar. 22 - Mar. 30

RESOLUTION
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
June 6, 1997

The following was adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission at its regular Commission Meeting held in Woodworth, LA, June 6, 1997.

- WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established a rule in 1988 prohibiting goose creeping, and
- WHEREAS, this rule was adopted in response to a sensationalized video tape that depicted wanton disregard for snow geese bag limits and other basic waterfowl hunting regulations by some hunters, and
- WHEREAS, the Commission felt a need to address what appeared to be a significant problem, at that time, and
- WHEREAS, since that time snow goose populations have increased to levels that are now having a negative impact on their breeding range in the Arctic, and
- WHEREAS, efforts are being made throughout North America to increase the harvest of snow geese, and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana is the only state that has a prohibition against creeping of geese, and
- WHEREAS, creeping as a method of hunting creates no biological implications for geese, and
- WHEREAS, the Law Enforcement Division has stated that the goose creeping regulation is unenforceable and no goose creeping cases have been made since this rule has been in effect, and
- WHEREAS, the Department's Law Enforcement Division supports and recommends that this rule be abolished, now
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give its Notice of Intent to abolish the rule established in 1988 that prohibited the act of goose creeping effective with the 1997-98 hunting season, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Daniel Babin, Chairman
La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to abolish the regulation that prohibited goose creeping.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 3. Wild Birds

§307. Goose Creeping

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 14:547 (August 1988), repealed LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until August 29, 1997 to Winton Vidrine, Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

RESOLUTION
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La. Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

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La. Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to abolish the regulation that prohibited goose creeping.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part V. Wild Quadrupeds and Wild Birds

Chapter 3. Wild Birds

§307. Goose Creeping

Repealed.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission LR 14:547 (August 1988), repealed LR .

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondences to other agencies of government.

Additionally, interested persons may submit written comments relative to the proposed rule until August 29, 1997 to Winton Vidrine, Enforcement Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

Daniel J. Babin
Chairman

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby announces its intent to amend a rule pertaining to the visitor regulations for Waddill Wildlife Refuge.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part III. State Game and Fish Preserves and Sanctuaries

Chapter 3. Particular Game and Fish Preserves and Commissions

§325. Waddill Wildlife Refuge

* * *

B. General

* * *

10. The possession of firearms, bows, liquor and controlled dangerous substances on the refuge is prohibited; provided, however, that the Department is authorized to construct, maintain and operate ranges, in which case, shotguns and bows will be permitted under guidelines developed by the Department; and, further provided that the prohibition on the possession of firearms shall not apply to duly authorized law enforcement officers.

* * *

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 et seq. and 56:109.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 22:861; amended LR 23: .

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is

authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this notice of intent and the final rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the fiscal and economic impact statements, the filing of the notice of intent and final rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

Interested persons may submit written comments on the proposed rule to Philip Bowman, Acting Administrator, Fur and Refuge Division, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 3, 1997.

Daniel J. Babin

Chairman

**1997 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental
Alligator Harvest Proposal**

Submitted by

Noel Kinler

and

Lance Campbell

1 May 1997

1997 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental Alligator Harvest Proposal

INTRODUCTION

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has conducted alligator research on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge since 1981. This research program included night counts, nest counts, growth rates, movement and sex ratios. In 1986 this research program was expanded to include an annual experimental harvest. This harvest program was designed to collect data that would allow for better estimation of alligator populations. Knowledge of the population dynamics of alligators is necessary when calculating harvest quotas and would ensure that no segment of the population would be subject to overharvest as harvest quotas are increased. Emphasis has been placed on obtaining information on production rates, sex ratios, size class frequency distribution and accurate nest counts.

During 1986-1996 a total of 9,210 alligators (56% males and 44% females) were harvested (Kinler 1991a, 1991b, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996), (Kinler and Campbell 1997), (Kinler et al. 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1990b). Of all adult ($\geq 6'$) alligators harvested, males comprised 53% and females 47%. In the immature ($< 6'$) size classes males comprised 60% while females contributed only 40%. As a group, adults comprised 55% of the total harvest. The size class frequency distribution of all alligators harvested by the baited hook and line harvest technique, from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge is listed in Table 1.

Although a significant amount of information has been collected in previous years on sex ratios and reproductive rates, continued variation in sex ratios of harvested alligators and the importance of correlating reproductive rates with nest estimates, water levels and salinities provides justification for this harvest. Constant water level and salinity data are now being collected

throughout the Refuge with 9 YSI 6000 recorders. Annual nesting effort of alligators is influenced by these variables throughout coastal Louisiana. Understanding the effect of environmental factors on nesting effort is necessary to determine population trends and to establish harvest quotas.

Over 3301 farm-raised alligators have been released on Marsh Island since 1989. In the 1990 and 1991 season, 89 of these released alligators were captured. Data from these recaptured alligators contributed in part to Elsey et al.(1992b) which compared growth rates between wild and farm-raised released alligators. Additionally, these recaptured alligators contributed entirely to Elsey et al (1992a) which compared food habits between wild and farm-raised, released alligators. In the 1993 season, 210 of 2,266 (previously reported incorrectly in Kinler 1994 and 1995) farm released alligators were harvested, in the 1995 season, 197 were harvested from 2702 farm released alligators potentially available, while in the 1996 season, 177 of the 2823 farm released alligators were harvested. In 1996, 7 farm released alligators were determined to have nested prior to being harvested. Continued recovery of these released alligators plays an important role in the Department's evaluation of the egg collection program. The harvest in 1997 will provide an opportunity to recover additional farm released alligators. The following items will be evaluated relative to the harvest of these farm-released alligators:

- 1) Growth rates
- 2) Movement and dispersal
- 3) Survival rates
- 4) Relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.

Continuation of this harvest program, in the format described in this proposal, will provide

information to the Department needed to make management decisions for the state's alligator program. The 1997 harvest is consistent with the Department's position outlined in a document entitled "Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge Experimental Alligator Harvest Program--Summary and Future Research and Management Strategies" which was submitted to the Russell Sage Foundation in June 1992 (Kinler 1992). This proposed harvest will also be in accordance with the Population Status and Management Implications sections of Kinler 1996. This proposal details the objectives and procedures for the 1997 experimental harvest program on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge.

OBJECTIVES

- 1) To evaluate survival, growth rates, movement, and maturation of farm-raised alligators released into the wild.
- 2) To evaluate the relative contribution of natural recruitment and farm released alligator recruitment to the harvest and to the Marsh Island alligator population.
- 3) To collect reproductive data to determine the proportion of adult-sized females (≥ 6 feet) nesting annually. Also to determine reproductive rates as related to marsh management units on Marsh Island (weired marsh, natural marsh and impoundment).
- 4) To conduct intensive alligator nest counts to further establish the relationship between reproductive rate and nest production and to correlate nest counts with water level and salinity data.
- 5) To evaluate an alternate time of annual harvest with the intent of changing the sex ratio in the harvest as ratios in summer harvested alligators.
- 6) To evaluate the accuracy of a calculated optimum harvest rate.

PROCEDURES

Harvest Quotas

Data collected from the 1986-96 experimental harvests were used to calculate a harvest quota for the 1997 harvest (Figure 1). Since the beginning of this harvest program all pertinent data has been used to estimate numbers of alligators present on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge and subsequently to calculate a harvest quota. Alligator nest count data from 1992-1996, production rate data from 1991, 1993, 1995, and 1996, and sex ratio and size class frequency distribution data from the 9,210 alligators harvested from Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge has been combined to calculate the 1997 quota. The 1997 quota is 750 alligators. These alligators will be harvested in July 1997.

Selection of Hunters

A total of 16 hunters and 5 alternates will be selected for the experimental harvest. Preference will be given to the individuals with previous trapping and/or alligator hunting experience on Marsh Island. Other hunters will be selected by screening applications, using the criteria listed below, and then drawing names.

- 1) Previous trapping and/or alligator hunting experience on Marsh Island Refuge.
- 2) Previous alligator hunting experience in Louisiana.
- 3) Ownership of essential equipment for alligator hunting on Marsh Island. Due to the location and topography of Marsh Island Refuge each hunter will need two boats.
 - a) Minimum 18' hull to cross the open water of Vermilion Bay on a daily basis.
 - b) A small boat (small flat, mudboat, etc.) to hunt the interior bayous and ponds.
- 4) Each applicant will be required to report to the refuge each morning until his quota is filled (no exceptions allowed).

- 5) Ability to follow specific instructions issued by Department personnel.
- 6) Ability to maintain required records.
- 7) All applicants will be checked for past wildlife violations. Any applicant possessing a wildlife violation in the past 5 years will be rejected.

All hunters will be required to sign and abide by an alligator hunting contract.

Unit Assignments

Hunters will be assigned to specific units on Marsh Island. Assignment of hunting units will be done by a drawing. Hunting units will be distributed throughout the refuge so that hunting success, reproductive rates and size-class data can be evaluated by habitat types.

Harvest Date

The 1996 experimental harvest will be conducted in July. The harvest will continue on a daily basis until specified by Department officials. Assessment of economic feasibility for the Department, the purchaser, and the hunter will also be considered.

Harvest Methods

The base quota of 750 alligators will be harvested by the baited hook and line (fishing) method. The daily harvest quota for each hunter will be regulated as needed.

Sale of Alligators

As in previous years, these alligators will be sold to the highest bidder. Sale of these alligators will be advertised and bids solicited from alligator buyers and dealers.

Data Collection

All alligators will be brought to the refuge headquarters and loaded onto the transport boat.

The following data will be collected:

- 1) Alligator hide tag numbers
- 2) Length (feet and inches)
- 3) Sex and weight
- 4) Location where the alligator is captured
- 5) Obvious mutilations (i.e., cuts, bobtails, missing legs) will be recorded.
- 6) Web tag and tail notch information for marked alligators. Fur and Refuge Division personnel will collect and process all data from the 1997 harvest.

LITERATURE CITED

- ELSEY, R.M., L. MCNEASE, T. JOANEN and N. KINLER. 1992a. Food habits of native wild and farm-released juvenile alligators. Proc. Annu. Conf. Southeast. Assoc. Fish and Wildl. Agencies 46:57-66.
- ,-----,-----,-----, 1992b. Growth rates and body condition factors of *Alligator mississippiensis* in coastal Louisiana wetlands: a comparison of wild and farm-released juveniles.
- KINLER, NOEL. 1991a. 1991 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge experimental alligator harvest proposal. Mimeograph Report. 7 pp.
- , 1991b. 1991 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge experimental alligator harvest program. Mimeograph Report. 21 pp.
- , 1993. 1993 Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge experimental alligator harvest proposal. Mimeograph Report. 18 pp.
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- KINLER, N., D. TAYLOR, AND G. LINScombe. 1987. 1986 Experimental alligator harvest program on Marsh Island Refuge. Mimeograph Report. 27 pp.
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- , -----, -----, 1990b. 1990 Experimental alligator harvest program on Marsh Island Refuge. Mimeograph Report. 20 pp.

Table 1. Size class frequency distribution for all alligators harvested by the fishing method on Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge, 1986-1996.

Size Class	<u>Percent of Alligators by Year¹</u>								
	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1993	1995	1996
3'	< 1	6	6	3	11	3	8		< 1
4'	1	29	37	20	21	27	19	11	16
5'	7	13	24	36	28	27	32	43	46
6'	24	20	13	17	25	21	24	26	26
7'	27	18	14	13	8	13	9	13	7
8'	13	7	2	7	4	7	6	5	3
9'	10	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
10'	13	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	< 1
11'	5	2	1	1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	
12'	< 1	< 1							
Number Harvested	2617	1008	166	847	853	758	872	739	784

¹ Based on whole alligator lengths

**Figure 1. Data and calculations utilized to establish the harvest quota for the 1997 Marsh Island
Experimental Alligator Harvest Program.**

CALCULATIONS FOR 1997 QUOTA

<u>Data</u>	<u>Source of Data</u>
17.9% nesting rate (1991, 1993, 1995, 1996)	July 1991, 1993, 1995, 1996 Marsh Island data
253 nests (1992-96 avg.)	1992-96 aerial nest surveys
Size class frequency distribution of harvested females	1986-96 M.I. data
Size class frequency distribution in Marsh Island harvests	1986-96 M.I. harvest data

The 1997 harvest quota is based upon the average nest density and the associated number of adult-size females within the population.

Calculations

1. If 17.9% of ≥ 6 feet females produced 253 nests; then $253 \div .179 = 1,413$ total females ≥ 6 feet in length.
2. $1,413 \times 20\%$ harvest rate on ≥ 6 feet females = 283 tags, for ≥ 6 feet females (Taylor and Neal 1984).
3. If ≥ 6 feet females = 26% of harvest (1986-96 data) then: $283 \div .26 = 1,088$ total tags.
4. Final quota = 750 tags (reduced for potential errors in data)

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT

MAY 1997

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-MAY 1997

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-136

WMA&REFUGES-2

33-Boating

19-Angling W/O A License

4-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

63-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

2-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Not Abiding By Commission Rules & Regulations

4-Sell Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Hunt Squirrels Closed Season

2-Frogging In Closed Season

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

3-Riding ATV On Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

1 gray squirrel, 19 bream, 3 crappie, 1 black bass, 1-6 foot cast net, 2-1 inch hoop nets, 3 black bass.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION I:

33-Boating

1-Hunting

88-Sport Fishing

6-Misc.

8-Commercial Fishing

Page (2)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-177

WMA&REFUGES-7

89-Boating

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O A License

6-No Wholesale Retail Dealers License

2-No Transport License

32-Angling W/O A License

6-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

23-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

1-Resisting An Officer

1-Simple Battery Of Police Officer

2-BUI

3-Littering

7-Violation Of Highway Regulations Act

1-No Drivers License

CONFISCATIONS:

1-15 ½ inch black bass, 1 Yamaha outboard, 1-20 h.p. Mariner outboard, 15 h.p.

**Evinrude outboard, 42 buffalo fish, 4 channel catfish, 1 channel catfish, 1 silver carp, 2
resident fishing license.**

Page (3)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 2:

89-Boating

3-Littering

11-Commercial Fishing

14-Public Assistance

62-Sports Fishing

12-Other

Page (4)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-245

WMA&REFUGES-36

71-Boating

104-Angling W/O A License In Possession

10-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

3-Angle W/O Non-Resident License

2-Use Recreational Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

8-Take Illegal/Undersize Black Bass

8-Frogging In Closed Season

1-Hunt Squirrels In Closed Season

2-Fail To Abide By Rules And Regulations On WMA

23-Criminal Trespass On State Property

4-Littering

3-Operate ATV On Public Road

2-DWI

3-Careless/Reckless Operation Of Motor Vehicle

1-Driving With Suspended License

CONFISCATIONS:

11 black bass, 19 frogs, 1 squirrel, 2 basic resident fishing license, 1 frog grab, 1 frog gig.

Page (5)

REGION 3 CONTD.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 3:

71-Boating

135-Sport Fishing

3-Hunting

36-Other

Page (6)

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-143

WMA&REFUGES-36

66-Boating

26-Angling W/O A License

15-Angling W/O a Non-Resident License

18-Fishing W/O Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Use Gear W/O Non-Resident Recreational Gear License

2-Take Or Possess Game Fish Illegally

3-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

3-Use Lead Nets In Other Than Overflow Regions

2-Possession Of Live Alligators W/O Permit

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Driving Without Operators License

1-Reckless Operation Of Vehicle

CONFISCATIONS:

6 hoop nets with leads, 56 crappie, 71 bream, 1 alligator.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 4:

66-Boating

5-Other

72-Fishing

Page (7)

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-397

WMA&REFUGES-25

263-Boating

40-Angling W/O A Resident License

11-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

2-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

2-Angling W/O A Saltwater License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Take Undersize Red Fish

3-Take Or Possess Undersize Black Drum

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Non-Resident License

1-No Commercial Gear License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

2-No Wholesale Retail Dealers License

2-Failure to Maintain Records

2-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

1-Take Crabs With Illegal Gear

1-Possess Red Drum Illegally

1-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings

1-Remove Contents From Crab Traps Illegally

3-Set Crab Traps In Entrance To Stream

1-Allow Another To Use Commercial License

REGION 5 CONT'D.

- 1-Failure to Mark Crab Containers "Busters"**
- 1-Use Illegal Mesh Net**
- 1-Permit Unlicensed Fisherman to Operate Commercial Vessel**
- 7-Take/Possess Undersize Crabs**
- 3-Sell Undersize Crabs**
- 17-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. Of Refuge**
- 2-Littering**
- 2-Criminal Trespass On State Property**
- 11-DWI**
- 4-No Liability Insurance**
- 1-Lacy Act**
- 1-Driving Without A Operators License**
- 2-Possession Of Firearm While Frogging**
- 2-Frogging In Closed Season**

CONFISCATIONS:

23 boxes of crabs, 2 guns, 1 basic fishing license, 1 marine resources stamp, 1 saltwater fishing license, 1-100 foot gill net, 3 white perch, 2 red drum, 2 black drum, 2 metal crab traps, 1 frog, 268 lbs. Of white shrimp tails sold for \$3,202.60, 3,350 seabobs, 1 non-resident commercial license.

Page (9)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 5:

263-Boating

113-Fishing

19-Other

2-Littering

Page (10)

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-320

WMA&REFUGES-21

222-Boating

38-Angling W/O A License

2-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

25-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

2-Angling W/O A Saltwater License

4-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

7-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

5-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

1-Fail To Mark Softshell Crab Box

3-Possession Of Undersize Crabs

2-Resisting An Officer

1-DWI

4-Littering

2-Driving Without A Operators License

1-Using Crab Traps In Restricted Area

1-Driving On Levees

CONFISCATIONS:

6 black bass, 41 crabs, 3 boxes of crabs, 1 ½ crates of crabs, 3 crab traps, 115 lbs. Of crabs, 1 beer can, 3 outboard motors.

Page (11)

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 6:

222-Boating

4-Littering

71-Sport Fishing

16-Commercial Fishing

1-Hunting

6-Misc.

Page (12)

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-349

WMA&REFUGES-6

136-Boating

137-Fish Without Resident License

11-Fish Without Non-Resident License

25-Fish Without Cane Pole License

1-Use Gear Without Gear License

4-Fish Without Commercial Gear License

1-Crawfish Without Gear License

2-Sell Commercial Fish Without Wholesale Retail Dealers License

1-Buy Seafood Without Non-Resident License

1-Transport Crawfish Without Transportation

1-Unmarked Crab Pots

1-No Non-Resident Harvester Permit

1-Possess Illegal Quadruped Without Permit

2-Hunt Alligator Closed Season

3-Take Non-Game Quadruped Illegally

2-Use W.A. Without Wild Stamp

3-DWI

3-Littering

11-No Wake Zone

3-Improper Tags-No Vessel Log-No Vessel Tarp

Page (13)

REGION 7 CONT'D.

CONFISCATIONS:

3 nutria, 298 sacks of oysters, 70 lbs. Of shrimp, 21,874 lbs. Of live crabs, 35 crawfish traps.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 7:

136-Boating

3-Littering

16-Commercial Fishing

174-Sport Fishing

6-Hunting

14-Other

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-448

WMA&REFUGES-25

70-Boating

132-Angling W/O A Basic License

12-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

4-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

15-Angling W/O Saltwater License

5-Angling W/O Non-Resident Saltwater License

4-Take/Possess Game Fish Illegally

4-Fail To Comply With Bait Taking Regulations

3-Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum

2-Possess Over The Limit Of Red Drum In Excess Of 27 inches

2-Take/Possess Undersized Red Drum

7-Take/Possess Undersized Black Drum

3-Possess Over The Limit Of Speckled Trout

1-Take/Possess Over The Limit Of Black Drum

3-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs. For Finfish

12-Take/Sell Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

16-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

13-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O A Vessel License

4-Sell/Buy fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

4-Fail To Maintain Records

REGION 8 CONTD.

- 1-Transport W/O Required License**
- 2-Leave Nets Unattended**
- 2-Use Saltwater Net Illegally**
- 1-Possess Net W/O Traversing Permit**
- 2-Fail To Keep Net On Board**
- 2-Buy Commercial Fish From An Unlicensed Fisherman**
- 1-Blocking Passage Of Fish**
- 1-Use Crab Traps W/O Required Markings**
- 2-Destroy Legal Crab Traps Or Remove Contents**
- 1-Take Speckled Trout W/O A Permit**
- 1-Take/Possess Oysters W/O Oyster Harvester's License**
- 1-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets**
- 5-Possess/Sell Undersize Crabs**
- 16-Sell Undersize Crabs**
- 11-Trawl In Inside Waters In Closed Season**
- 2-Use Four Trawls In Two Trawl Area**
- 2-Use Skimmer In Closed Season**
- 1-Use Illegal Butterfly Net Extension**
- 8-Take Oysters From Unapproved Area**
- 1-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease**
- 1-Fail To Mark Oyster Lease While Harvesting**

Page (16)

REGION 8 CONTD.

6-Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel

1-Failure To Tag Sack Or Containerized Oysters

4-Fail To Land Oysters In Louisiana

3-Take Alligators W/O A License

7-Frog In Closed Season

5-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

5-Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

30-Other

CONFISCATIONS:

87 red drum, 107 speckled trout, 223 frogs, 1 gag grouper, 1100 lbs. Of crabs, 489 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$498.00, 327 lbs. Of shark, 180 lbs. Of shark fins, 27 black drum, 1 black bass, 1 striped bass, 4 catfish, 590 sacks of oysters sold for \$4,000.00 at bid, 489 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$498.20, 4,327 lbs. Of shark sold for \$4,432.55, ½ gallon of oysters, 2 alligators, 1100 feet of gill net, 1 cast net, 2 skimmer nets, 12 oyster tags, 1 boat registration computer printout, 1 ice chest, 9 trawls, 4 crab traps, 1 boat, 1 decoy sack, 10 pages seafood records.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 8:

70-Boating

30-Other

204-Recreational Fishing

131-Commercial Fishing

13-Reptiles/Amphibians

REGION 8

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT

COMPLAINTS

1. Closed season shrimp activity was very low prior to the season opening for inside waters on May 19 in Zones 1 & 2. Very few complaints were received. The small size of the shrimp seemed to reduce the number of shrimpers willing to take a chance. No complaints of closed season shrimp activity were received from the passes. In all, it was an unusually quiet opening.

PATROLS

1. Regular patrols by boat and plane were made for closed season shrimping. Once the season opened, there were quite a few shrimpers out. Most were in compliance. A small number of license cases were made. We will continue with license and gear compliance patrols. Bad weather all month led to reduced effort by shrimpers, especially on weekends. Thunderstorms seemed to keep recreational shrimpers at home.

INQUIRIES

1. We received numerous inquiries for TED information, which were referred to the LSU Cooperative Extension Service Fisheries Agent Gerald Horst.
2. We received more calls regarding mesh size, shrimp size, net and frames size, license requirements, and other legal questions. Numerous inquiries were received about the use of bait trawls and small trawls in close season, which is illegal.

CASES

Only nine closed season case were made in Region 8. This is an unusually low number,

Page (18)

SHRIMP ACTIVITY REPORT CONTD..

And is due to the small size and scarcity of shrimp.

REGION 9

TOTAL CASES-256

WMA&REFUGES-10

110-Boating

33-Angling W/O A License

10-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

3-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

2-Angling W/O Saltwater License

3-Angling W/O Saltwater License Non-Resident

5-Failure To Have Saltwater Stamp

1-Take Illegal Size Black Bass

2-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

14-Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules (O/L of Red Snapper)

1-Sell Fish Caught Recreational

1-Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail License

3-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

8-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

8-Take Commercial Fish W/W/O Commercial License

8-Take Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Take Undersize Commercial Finfish

2-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-licensed Fisherman

REGION 9 CONTD..

1-Remove Contents Of Legal Crab Traps

1-Fail To Mark Crab Containers

3-Theft Of Crab Trap

7-Possess Undersize Commercial Hard Crabs

8-Trawling In Closed Season Inside Waters

3-Trawling Inside Waters With Oversized Double Rigs

1-Butterflying In Closed Season

2-Use Skimmers In Closed Season

2-Take Alligators Closed Season

4-Frogging In Closed Season

1-Littering

3-Obstruction Of Justice

1-Flight From An Officer

1-Discharge Firearm From Public Road

CONFISCATIONS:

30 black drum, 5 speckled trout, 1 black bass, 2,400 lbs. Of crabs, 1 red drum, 1

alligator, 197 frogs released, 11 red snapper, 263 lbs. Of catfish sold for \$118.35, 476

lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$452.00, 14 lbs. Of shrimp released, 6 crab traps, 4 skimmer nets,

4 butterfly nets, 3 test trawls, 1 steel double rig, 1 skiff and motor, 4 shrimp baskets, 1

Page (21)

REGION 9 CONFISCATIONS CONTD.

duck decoy sack.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR REGION 9:

110-Boating

1-Littering

76-Sport Fishing

44-Commercial Fishing

14-Trawling

2-Alligators

4-Reptiles And Amphibians

5-Other

Page (22)

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-94

9-No Vessel Log Book

4-Failure To Maintain Wholesale/Retail Dealers Records

1-Violation Of Sanitary Code-Chapter 9

4-Failure To Fill Out Oyster Tags Correctly

2-Buying Commercial Fish Without Wholesale/Retail Dealers License

1-Failure To Label Containerized Oysters

1-Failure To Tag Sacked Oysters

8-Take Oysters From Unleased State Water Bottoms

6-No Boat Numbers On Top Of Vessel

1-Failure To Retain Oyster Tags For 90 Days

1-Take Oysters From Unapproved Area

1-Take Oysters From State Seed Grounds During Closed Season

1-Possess Undersize Crabs

3-Take Crabs Commercially Without A Vessel License

2-Take Crabs Commercially Without A Gear License

3-Take Crabs Commercially Without A Commercial Fisherman's License

1-Use Untagged Crab Traps

1-Buy Shrimp From Un-Licensed Fisherman

5-Butterflying During Closed Season

1-Possess Undersize Red Drum

Page (23)

OYSTER STRIKE FORCE CONTD..

1-Possess Undersize Spotted Sea Trout

2-Possess Undersize Black Drum

11-Angling W/o Basic Resident License

11-Fishing W/O Saltwater License

11-Fishing W/O Marine Conservation Stamp

1-Hunting Squirrels Closed Season

1-Contributing To The Delinquency Of A Minor

CONFISCATIONS:

2 guns, 2 butterfly nets, 1 crab trap, 1 squirrel, 1 red drum, 289 sacks of oysters, 3 black drum, 7 specks, 2 boxes of crabs, 800 lbs. Of shrimp.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR OYSTER STRIKE FORCE:

39-Oyster

10-Crab

6-Shrimp

1-Hunting

37-Sport Fishing

1-Other

Page (24)

S.W.E.P.

102 HOURS RUNNING TIME

115 BOATS CHECKED

TOTAL CASES-37

2-Boating

14-Angling W/O A Non-Resident License

1-Possess Undersized Spotted Sea Trout

1-Possess Overlimit Spotted Sea Trout

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regulations

2-No Marine Conservation Stamp Resident/Non-Resident

2-Angling W/O Resident License

2-Angling W/O A Saltwater License

1-Injuring Public Records (Charter Fishing)

2-No Gear License

2-No Vessel License

5-Trawling In Closed Season

2-No Commercial License

CONFISCATIONS:

318 lbs. Of shrimp sold for \$254.40, 25 speckled trout, 1 gag grouper.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR S.W.E.P.:

2-Boating

24-Sport Fishing

11-Commercial Fishing

Page (25)

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

TOTAL CASES-61

4-Boating

4-Angling W/O A License

1-Possess Over Limit Of Spotted Sea Trout

3-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regs.

3-Sell Or Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial License

2-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-No Vessel License

7-Sell/Buy Fish W/O Wholesale License

7-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish

3-Buy From Unlicensed Fisherman

1-Destroy Crab Traps Or Removing Contents

1-Fail To Mark Softshell Crabs

1-Fail To Comply With Spotted Sea trout Regulations

2-Fail To Report Commercial Fisheries Data

9-Possess/Or Sell Undersized Crabs

3-Trawling In Closed Season

4-Fail To Tag Sacked Or Containerized Oysters

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On W.A.

2-Take Federal Controlled Fish In Closed Season

Page (26)

SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT CONTD..

CONFISCATIONS:

2100 lbs. Of undersized crabs, 2 gallon of oysters, 3 trawls, 2 spotted sea trout.

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SEAFOOD INVESTIGATIVE UNIT:

4-Boating

57-Commercial Fishing

Page (27)

STATEWIDE STRIKE FORCE

TOTAL CASES-101

57-Boating

15-Angling W/O A License

5-Angling W/O A License Non-Resident

7-Fish W/O Resident Pole License

1-Take/Possess Gamefish Illegally

1-Take/ Possess Undersized Red Drum

1-Take/Possess Undersize Black Drum

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Gear License

2-Take/Possess Commercial Fish W/O Vessel License

1-Fail To Mark Crabs

1-Take/Possess Black Drum

2-Possess Undersize Crabs

1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regs. On WMA

3-BUI

2-Littering

1-Misc.

CONFISCATIONS:

30 crab traps, 5 outboard motors, 4,327 lbs. Of shark, 180 lbs. Of shark fins, 2 red fish,

4 black drum.

Page (28)

SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE CONTD..

TOTAL OF EACH CATEGORY FOR SPECIAL STRIKE FORCE:

57-Boating

2-Littering

30-Sport Fishing

7-Commercial Fishing

4-Other

1-Federal

Page (29)

TOTAL CASES- 2639

TOTAL CASES WMA&REFUGES- 168

ENFORCEMENT AVIATION REPORT

MAY, 1997

185-Amph. - 61092
Hrs. - 55.7

185-Float - 70365
Hrs. - 46.0

210 - 9467Y
Hrs. - 30.5

Enforcement Hours - 99.5

Other Divisions - 32.7

Total Plane Use - 132.2

Cases Made in Conjunction with Aircraft Use Resulted in Citations
being issued for:

- 5 - Trawling Closed Season
- 3 - Open Season Trawling Inside Water
- 1 - Theft of Content
- 1 - No Observer
- 1 - Flight From Officer
- 1 - Reckless Operation
- 1 - Obstruction
- 13 - Total Cases

Confiscations: 1,000 Lbs. Crabs, 300 Lbs. Shrimp

1997		October			1997	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-JUN-1997

CURRENT MONTH 05/01/1997 TO 05/31/1997 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 07/01/1996 TO 05/31/1997 INCEPTION TO DATE 05/31/1997

ORIG RESTITUTION VALUES ENTERED
HEARING COSTS ASSESSED
SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODS
SALES EXCEEDING RESTITUTION

# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT	# CASES	AMOUNT
20	\$11,632.70	318	\$408,313.89	3,372	\$2,251,545.78
2	\$50.00	61	\$1,525.00	130	\$3,250.00
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	331	\$269,865.45
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	148	\$71,951.21

RESTITUTION ASSESSED

20	\$11,682.70	318	\$409,838.89	3,372	\$2,056,881.54
15	\$5,198.91-	263	\$50,541.40-	2,183	\$336,257.06-
10	\$1,399.21-	220	\$26,498.89-	1,471	\$166,096.16-
3	\$1.02	20	\$129.61	92	\$1,613.27
0	\$0.00	6	\$125.08	37	\$7,150.51
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$18,449.45-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	4	\$10,601.49
0	\$0.00	2	\$2,816.42	18	\$78,254.09
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$36.75
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	2	\$35.00
0	\$0.00	1	\$0.85-	13	\$10.22-
0	\$0.00	3	\$632.64	18	\$6,532.69
0	\$0.00	9	\$20,855.69-	52	\$33,593.61-
1	\$0.11-	4	\$576.58-	205	\$112,914.42-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	6	\$1,399.24-
0	\$0.00	0	\$58.90-	0	\$58.90-
0	\$0.00	9	\$3,104.57-	21	\$22,867.51-
0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00

** TOTAL OUTSTANDING

962 \$1,469,458.77

FOOTNOTE:

PAYMENTS FROM COLLECTION EFFORT	1	\$20.00	9	\$180.00	55	\$11,020.67
AMOUNT PAID TO COLLECTOR		\$5.00		\$45.00		\$2,755.16
FORFEIT OF CONFISCATED COMMODS	0	\$0.00	1	\$0.00	1	\$0.00 *

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
CIVIL RESTITUTION ACTIVITY REPORT

DATE: 3-JUN-1997

AGING OF SALE OF CONFISCATED COMMODITIES

AGING OF OUTSTANDING CASES

VIOLATION DATE UNKNOWN		CAN NOT BE INVOICED		CAGES SENT FOR COLLECTION	
1 - 30 DAYS	0	1 - 30 DAYS	5		\$1,551.38
31 - 60 DAYS	4	31 - 60 DAYS	13		\$7,418.44
61 - 90 DAYS	2	61 - 90 DAYS	11		\$8,673.71
91 - 120 DAYS	8	91 - 120 DAYS	10		\$8,692.91
121 - 150 DAYS	8	121 - 150 DAYS	16		\$7,180.05
151 - 180 DAYS	7	151 - 180 DAYS	6		\$2,375.48
181 - 365 DAYS	87	181 - 365 DAYS	8		\$4,603.00
OVER ONE YEAR	164	CASES SENT FOR COLLECTION	13		\$75,971.04
OVER TWO YEARS	120	OVER 1 YEAR PENDING	0		\$159,838.42
OVER THREE YEARS	60	OVER 1 YEAR (OTHER)	814		\$0.00
					\$1,193,154.34
					=====
** TOTAL AGING	466	** TOTAL AGING	962		\$1,469,458.77

MONTHLY CIVIL RESTITUTION REPORT

PERIOD	NO. CASES ASSESSED	AMOUNT ASSESSED	CREDIT FOR SALE GOODS	NO. CASES PAID	AMOUNT PAID	DISCOUNTS TAKEN	Percent Dollars Paid	Percent Cases Paid
FISCAL YEAR 1993-94								
July, 1993	25	21,039	(9,778)	29	4,855	2,545		
Aug., 1993	53	44,922	(1,137)	41	7,950	3,603		
Sept., 1993	42	137,635	(17,938)	35	6,783	3,048		
Oct., 1993	49	21,471	(11,282)	40	3,285	1,519		
Nov., 1993	57	31,207	(13,260)	32	3,053	2,845		
Dec., 1993	53	13,777		27	6,507	6,713		
Jan., 1994	38	18,918		32	4,423	2,831		
Feb., 1994	68	38,131	(8,238)	46	9,124	5,993		
Mar., 1994	38	22,739	(2,482)	51	10,854	6,796		
April, 1994	14	44,732	(1,404)	27	7,307	4,632		
May, 1994	10	4,504	(165)	7	5,447	3,808		
June, 1994	29	26,167	(2,986)	12	1,886	1,214		
Total FY 1994	476	425,242	(68,670)	379	71,474	45,547	27.5%	79.6%
FISCAL YEAR 1994-95								
July, 1994	17	2,127	(335)	23	2,101	1,437		
Aug., 1994	41	96,403	(3,035)	20	1,010	605		
Sept., 1994	34	14,614	(14,002)	26	2,596	2,342		
Oct., 1994	94	17,426	(8,677)	38	2,922	3,179		
Nov., 1994	43	103,592		45	3,992	2,803		
Dec., 1994	68	31,400		35	4,315	2,329		
Jan., 1995	55	27,601		52	7,493	4,921		
Feb., 1995	70	61,119		41	6,472	3,973		
Mar., 1995	31	25,072		44	8,315	4,737		
Apr., 1995	13	15,353		16	3,565	1,538		
May., 1995	23	11,632		16	4,315	654		
June 1995	45	31,008		18	2,630	1,025		
Total FY 1995	534	437,347	(26,049)	374	49,726	29,543	18.1%	70.0%
FISCAL YEAR 1995-96								
July, 1995	0	0						
Aug., 1995	46	17,425		27	9,028	1,729		
Sept., 1995	1	125		21	3,093	2,049		
Oct., 1995	122	206,244		29	2,720	1,161		
Nov., 1995	55	23,124		62	10,151	6,383		
Dec., 1995	50	18,607		32	4,781	2,803		
Jan., 1996	49	13,815	(15,296)	36	5,297	3,473		
Feb., 1996	50	14,717		38	5,778	3,417		
Mar., 1996	33	24,937		36	6,035	3,422		
Apr., 1996	30	11,007		36	7,173	2,712		
May., 1996	23	7,989		24	3,942	2,020		
June 1996	50	22,151		16	2,790	1,182		
Total FY 1996	509	360,141	(15,296)	357	60,787	30,350	25.3%	70.1%
FISCAL YEAR 1996-97								
July, 1996	40	71,894		32	5,250	2,948		
Aug., 1996	32	5,363		32	6,255	3,784		
Sept., 1996	41	7,210		29	2,260	1,327		
Oct., 1996	29	11,093		25	3,698	2,262		
Nov., 1996	20	10,009		22	1,625	698		
Dec., 1996	13	238,466		22	5,877	2,122		
Jan., 1997	27	11,755		17	4,393	2,377		
Feb., 1997	47	18,521		42	8,580	5,553		
Mar., 1997	26	13,434		27	5,000	2,758		
Apr., 1997	10	2,909		15	2,323	1,299		
May., 1997	20	11,683		15	5,199	1,399		
June 1997								
Total FY 1997	305	402,336	0	278	50,459	26,525	19.1%	91.1%

SCHEDULE FOR FINAL RULES TO BE PUBLISHED IN STATE REGISTER

JULY-97	RULE - 1997-98 Hunting Season Regulations
	RULE - Spanish Lake State Game & Fishing Preserve
	RULE - Daily Take, Possession & Size Limits Set by Commission, Reef Fish
AUGUST-97	RULE - Black Bass, Atchafalaya Basin Complex
	RULE - Toledo Bend Reservoir Reciprocal Agreement
SEPT-97	RULE - Non-Resident Duck Stamp Fee
	RULE - Black Bass Regulations, Daily Take & Size Limits, John K. Kelly-Grand Bayou Reservoir
?	RULE - Oyster Lease Moratorium for New Acreage

C O V E R



FAX

S H E E T

To: Commissioner Tom Gattle

Fax #: 318-559-1524

Subject: Agenda

Date: June 2, 1997

Pages: 2, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

The attached is the current agenda for the June 6, 1997 Commission Meeting.

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

NEWS RELEASE

James H. Jenkins Jr.
Secretary



CONTACT
504/765-2923
5/30/97

JUNE COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULED IN WOODWORTH

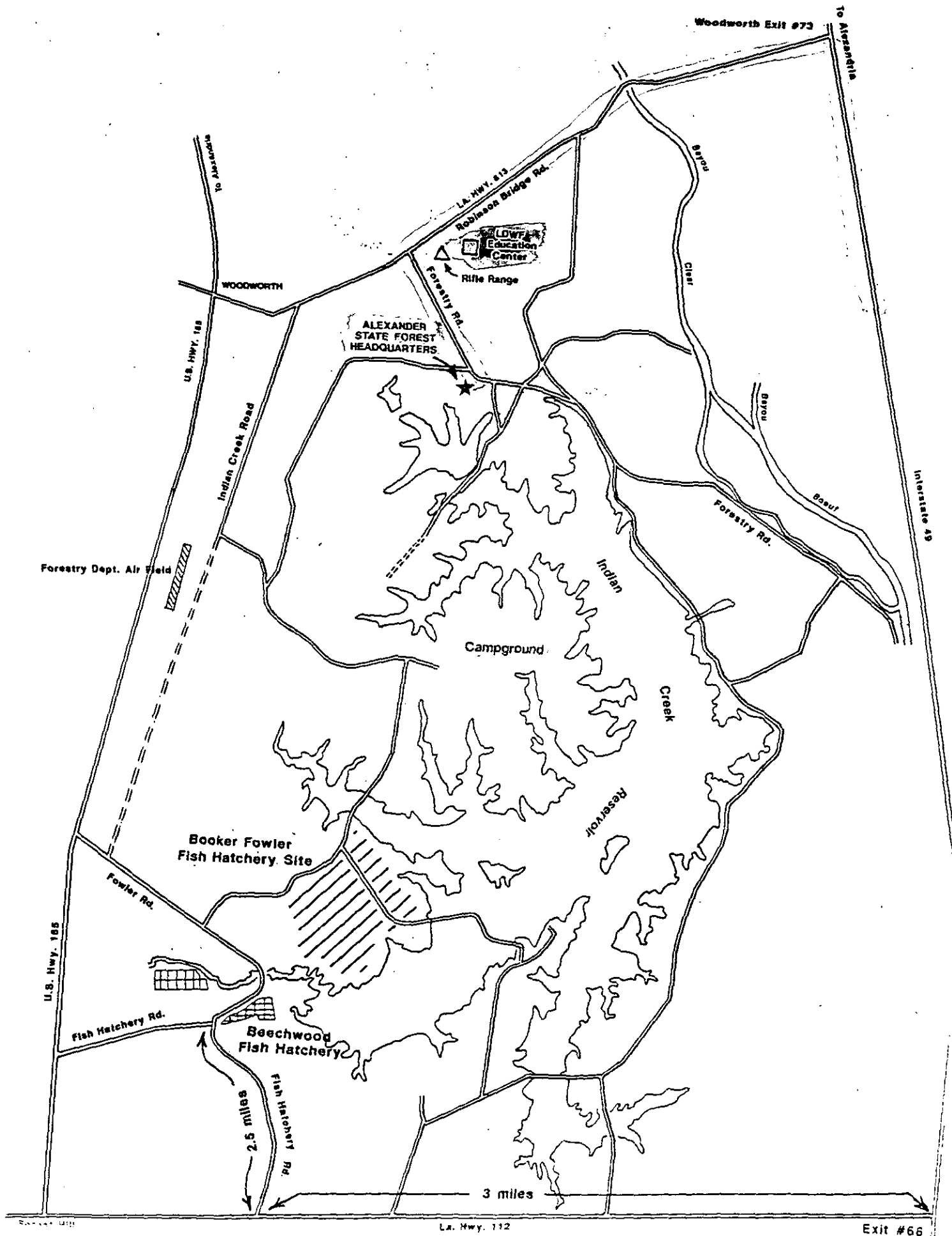
The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its next regular meeting on Friday, June 6, 1997, at 10 a.m. The meeting is scheduled to convene at Alexander State Forest headquarters in Woodworth, La.

The meeting is being held to coincide with the public opening and dedication of the nearby Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery to take place at 1:30 p.m. The \$13 million state-of-the-art hatchery will serve as the state's primary freshwater fish rearing facility. The 250-acre complex will be dedicated to raising 85 million fish, including bass, catfish, paddlefish and Gulf sturgeon, for stocking into state waters over the next 10 years.

Tours of the hatchery will be conducted on Friday, June 6, by Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Inland Fisheries personnel and Saturday, June 7, by LDWF Education Section staff members. Tours begin at 9 a.m. on both days.

The Commission meeting is open to the public. The agenda follows.

1. Roll call.
2. Approval of minutes of May 1, 1997.
3. Presentation on economic benefits of fish, wildlife and boating resources.
4. Results of 1997 spring turkey hunting season and drawing for shotguns.
5. Announcement of 1998 Louisiana duck stamp competition.
6. Notice of Intent: repeal of goose creeping resolution.
7. Public Comments: 1997-98 resident game hunting seasons.
8. Notice of Intent: amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge regulations.
9. Marsh Island experimental alligator harvest — information only.
10. Enforcement and Aviation reports/May.
11. Division reports.
12. Set October 1997 meeting date.
13. Public comments.
14. Adjourn.



State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

May 27, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 6 1997, at Alexander State Forest Headquarters near Woodworth, LA. The dedication of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery will follow the Commission Meeting (see attached map).

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997
3. Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

4. Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns
5. Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species
6. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation
7. Public Comments - 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
8. Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations
9. Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest (Information Only)

Page 2
Commission Meeting
May 27, 1997

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

WINTON VIDRINE

10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
11. Division Reports
12. Set October 1997 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
John Chase
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

May 27, 1997

NEWS RELEASE

APPROVED: _____



AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

The next regular public board meeting has been scheduled by the Commission for 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 6, 1997, at the Alexander State Forest Headquarters, Woodworth, LA.

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997
3. Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources
4. Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns
5. Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species
6. Notice of Intent - Repeal of Goose Creeping Regulation
7. Public Comments - 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
8. Notice of Intent to Amend Waddill Wildlife Refuge Regulations
9. Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest (Information Only)
10. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
11. Division Reports
12. Set October 1997 Meeting Date
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

faxed 11:10AM

C O V E R



FAX

To: Danny Babin

Fax #: 504-563-4202

Subject: Commission Meeting Agenda

Date: May 27, 1997

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached agenda and let me know if it is okay. Thank you.

*NOI - Repeal Goose
Creeping and
NOI - Amend Waddell
added 5/27/97 -
4:10 PM per J. Taver's
instructions.*

From the desk of...

Susan Hawkins

La. Dept. Of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

504-765-2806
Fax: 504-765-0948

May 27, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission
FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr., Secretary
SUBJECT: June Commission Meeting Agenda

The next regular Commission meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, June 6 1997, at Alexander State Forest Headquarters near Woodworth, LA. The dedication of the Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery will follow the Commission Meeting (see attached map).

The following items will be discussed:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of May 1, 1997
3. Presentation on Economic Benefits of Fish, Wildlife & Boating Resources
4. ~~Presentation by Corps of Engineers~~

*pulled by request
from Renee Turner
5/27/97 - sch*

OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

5. Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season & Drawing for Shotguns
6. Announce 1998 Louisiana Duck Stamp Competition and Species
7. Public Comments - 1997-98 Resident Game Hunting Seasons
8. Marsh Island Experimental Alligator Harvest (Information Only)

Page 2
Commission Meeting
May 27, 1997

OFFICE OF FISHERIES

WINTON VIDRINE

9. Enforcement & Aviation Reports/May
10. Division Reports
11. Set October 1997 Meeting Date
12. Public Comments

JHJ:sch

C: Clyde Kimball
Ron Couvillion
Johnnie Tarver
John Roussel
Craig Lamendola
Don Puckett
Dennis Kropog
Division Chiefs

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET

For use of this form, see AR 25-11; the procuring agency is OORSCA

COMMAND/ OFFICE		NAME/ OFFICE SYMBOL	OFFICE TELEPHONE NO. (AUTOVON/Corr.)		FAX NO. (AUTOVON/Corr.)	
FROM: Renee Turner		Coops of Eny				
TO: Susan Hawkins		LA Dept Wildlife & Fish				
CLASSIFICATION	PRECEDENCE	NO. PAGES (including this Header)	DATE-TIME	MONTH	YEAR	RELEASEE'S SIGNATURE
		2	2	5	97	
REMARKS						

Space Below For Communications Center Use Only

DA FORM 3918-R, JUL 90

DA FORM 3918-R, AUG 72 IS OBSOLETE

Page 1 - correction
last item

Presentation on
Benefits
Economic Contributions
Fish, Wildlife
& Boating Resources -
Rob Southwick

Renee
Turner

**Small Flood Control (Section 205)**

Work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by the construction or improvement of flood control works such as levees, channels, and dams. Non-structural alternatives are also considered and may include measures such as installation of flood warning systems, raising and/or flood-proofing of structures, and relocation of flood prone facilities.

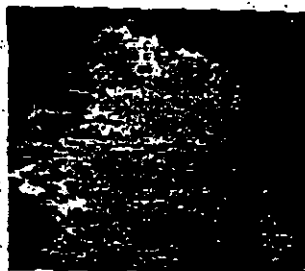
**Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Section 14)**

Work under this authority is intended to prevent erosion damages to highways, bridge approaches, public works, and other non-profit public facilities by the emergency construction or repair of streambank and shoreline protection works.

**Small Navigation Projects (Section 107)**

Work under this authority is intended to provide improvements to navigation including dredging of channels, widening of turning basins, and construction of navigation aids.

10

**Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment (Section 1135)**

Work under this authority provides for ecosystem restoration through modification to Corps structures or operation of Corps structures or implementation of restoration features when the construction of a Corps project has contributed to degradation of the quality of the environment.

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL HEADER SHEET

For use of this form, see AF 25-11; the proponent agency is GCSO4

COMMAND/ OFFICE		NAME/ OFFICE SYMBOL	OFFICE TELEPHONE NO. (AUTOVON/Comm.)		FAX NO. (AUTOVON/Comm.)
FROM: RENEE TURNER		CORPS OF ENGR. VICKSBURG DIST	601 631-7064		601 631-5027
TO: SUSAN HAWKINS		LA DEPT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES	504 765-2623		504 765-0948
CLASSIFICATION	PRECEDENCE	NO. PAGES (including this Header)	DATE-TIME	MONTH	YEAR
		4	2	5	97
REMARKS					

Space Below For Communications Center Use Only

DA FORM 3918-R, JUL 90

DA FORM 3918-R, AUG 72 IS OBSOLETE

These are the subjects that will be in the presentation.

If I am late in sending these for the next meeting, please schedule for your next meeting. Would like June or July.

You may let myself or Dettie Theobald (631-5472) of the date and times of the meeting.

Thanks,

Renee Turner.

Continuing Authorities Coordinator

**Small Flood Control (Section 205)**

Work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by the construction or improvement of flood control works such as levees, channels, and dams. Non-structural alternatives are also considered and may include measures such as installation of flood warning systems, raising and/or flood proofing of structures; and relocation of flood prone facilities.

**Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Section 14)**

Work under this authority is intended to prevent erosion damages to highways, bridge approaches, public works, and other non-profit public facilities by the emergency construction or repair of streambank and shoreline protection works.

**Small Navigation Projects (Section 107)**

Work under this authority is intended to provide improvements to navigation including dredging of channels, widening of turning basins, and construction of navigation aids.

10

**Snagging and Clearing for Flood Control (Section 208)**

Work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by channel clearing and excavation, with limited embankment construction by use of materials from the clearing operation only.

Authority, Objective, and Scope

Land use adjustments based on proper planning and the employment of techniques for reducing flood damages provide a rational way to balance the advantages and disadvantages of human settlement on flood plains. These adjustments are the key to sound flood plain management.

Types of Assistance

The FPMS Program provides the full range of technical services and planning guidance that is needed to support effective flood plain management.

a. **General Technical Services.** The program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; flood-water velocities; and the extent, duration, and frequency of flooding. It also provides information on natural and cultural flood plain resources before and after the use of flood plain management measures.



Examples of typical flood plain studies

Planning Assistance to States

Authority and Scope

Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist the States, local governments, and other non-Federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Section 208 of the WRDA of 1992 amended the WRDA of 1974 to include Native American Tribes as equivalent to a State.

Funding

The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each State or Tribe from the nation-wide appropriation are limited to \$500,000 annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per State or Tribe per year, generally cost \$25,000 to \$75,000. These studies are cost shared on a 50 percent Federal - 50 percent non-Federal basis.

Program Development

The needed planning assistance is determined by the individual States and Tribes. Every year, each State and Indian Tribe can provide the Corps of Engineers its request for studies under the program, and the Corps then accommodates as many studies as possible within the funding allotment. Typical studies are only planning level of detail; they do not include detailed design for project construction. The studies generally involve the analysis of existing data for planning purposes using standard engineering techniques although some data collection is often necessary. Most studies become the basis for State or Tribal and local planning decisions. To assist in expediting a request for Planning Assistance to States activities, a sample letter and Cost Sharing Agreement are included on pages 41 and 42, respectively.

Typical Studies

The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resources issues. Types of studies conducted in recent years under the program include the following:

- Water Supply and Demand Studies
- Water Quality Studies
- Environmental Conservation/Restoration Studies
- Wetlands Evaluation Studies
- Dam Safety/Failure Studies
- Flood Damage Reduction Studies
- Flood Plain Management Studies
- Coastal Zone Management/Protection Studies
- Harbor/Port Studies

How to Request Assistance

State, local government, and Tribal officials who are interested in obtaining planning assistance under this Program can contact the Vicksburg District PAS Coordinator - (601)-631-5416, E-mail at B4PDFELH@SMTP.LMK.USACE.ARMY.MIL or write to the address in the following sample letter request.



Water supply evaluations.

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

May 2, 1997

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deputy Secretary, Undersecretary, Assistant Secretary-
Office of Wildlife, Assistant Secretary-Office of
Fisheries and Confidential Assistant

FROM: James H. Jenkins, Jr. *[Signature]* Secretary

SUBJECT: Commission Meeting Agenda - June 6, 1997

Please write on the bottom of this memo and return to Susan Hawkins by Friday, May 16th any agenda items your office may have for the Friday, June 6th Commission Meeting to be held in Woodworth, Louisiana, at Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery. This meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on June 6th. If you do not have anything for the agenda, please return memo and indicate so on the bottom of this memo. We cannot add anything to the agenda that requires commission action after we have published the agenda in the state journal.

Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda. Thank you for your cooperation!

JHJ/sch

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman ✓
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

*Commission Meeting
Wildlife Division Agenda Items
Friday June 6, 1997*

- 1- Public Comment: 1997-98 Resident Game
Hunting Season Proposals - T. Puckett*
- 2- Results 1997 Spring Turkey Hunting Season
and Drawing for Shotgun - ~~H. Bateman~~
Danny Timmer*
- 3- Announce 1998 La Duck Stamp
Competition and Species - D. Morrison*

State of Louisiana



REC'D

MAY 06 97

FUR & REFUGE
BATON ROUGE

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

65-2800

1997

For June Agenda

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JHJ,

cc: Commissioners
Don Puckett
Winton Vidrine
Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman ✓

Marsh Island

Experimental
Alligator Harvest

(Info. Only)

Public Comment

RB Bowman 5/6/97

James
Manning
Fur & Refuge

Secretary, Assistant Secretary-
Assistant Secretary-Office of
Special Assistant

June 6, 1997

of this memo and return to Susan
agenda items your office may have
Mission Meeting to be held in
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the agenda. Thank you for your

State of Louisiana



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Phil Bowman

Eng Report
5-16-97
[Signature]

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

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Hugh Bateman
Bennie Fontenot ✓
Karen Foote
Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

5-16-97

Susan:

I have no agenda items for the June 6th
Commission Meeting.

Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr.
Administrator
Inland Fisheries Div.

Bennie J. Fontenot, Jr.

State of Louisiana



3-15-97
No items.
Karen

James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

May 2, 1997

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Wynnette Kees
Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

5-5-97
Program managers
Returns
Karen by Wed May 15th

Do not let
this sit on your
desk

TO:
BLANCHET
BOUDREAUX
BOWMAN
DUGAS
HANIFEN
SAVOIE
SHEPARD
Thomas

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Update on Marathon Spill ARDA
- July may be better

State of Louisiana



James H. Jenkins, Jr.
Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Post Office Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000
(504)765-2800

M.J. "Mike" Foster
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Karl Turner
Lyle Soniat
Phil Bowman

**The Economic Benefits of
Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources
in the
State of Louisiana**

Prepared by:

**Southwick Associates
(904) 277-9765**

Prepared for:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

March 1997

Acknowledgments

This report was written by Rob Southwick of Southwick Associates. Technical assistance was provided by Mario Teisl. However, development of the information within would not have been possible without the assistance of Brian McManus and David Lavergne of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. We wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to these individuals for helping to identify and obtain many of the data sources used herein. Regardless of others involvement, the author accepts responsibility for all contents and results presented in this report.

Cost Statement: Two hundred fifty copies (250) of this public document were published at a total cost of \$180. Any questions concerning this document should be forwarded to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Office of Management and Finance, Socioeconomic Research and Development, P. O. Box 98000, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries follows a non-discriminatory policy in programs and employment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section:</u>	<u>Page #:</u>
Executive Summary	2
Introduction	3
Economic Concepts and Definitions	4
Methods	6
Results	15
Conclusion	19
Literature Cited	20

Executive Summary

The fish, wildlife and boating resources of Louisiana are substantial. Hundreds of thousands depend on the resources for recreation, work and as a source of nourishment. Actively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, these resources not only contribute to the standard of living and economic health of state residents, they also contribute significantly through state tax revenues. The major activities based on Louisiana's fish, wildlife and boating resources, and examples of their economic contributions in 1996, are summarized in the following table.

Summary Table: Economic Impacts of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources, Louisiana, 1996.				
	Retail Sales (million \$)	Total Economic Effect (million \$)	Jobs (Number)	State Sales Tax & Inc Tax Revenues (million \$)
Recreational Hunting	389.2	758.5	9,800	20.8
Recreational Fishing	790.0	1,600.0	18,400	38.5
Non-Consumptive Fish & Wildlife Recreation	253.3	512.3	6,800	21.0
Recreational Boating	1,500.0	3,000.0	26,600	72.6
Commercial Fishing: *	2,100.0	2,800.0	31,400	107.0
Alligator Harvests	23.0	40.2	430	1.2
Reptile & Amphibian Collection	1.3	2.5	20	0.1
Fur Harvest	1.4	2.5	36	0.1
TOTAL	5,047.0	8,700.0	93,500	261.0

* Retail sales in Commercial Fishing include dockside sales of \$315.8 million and sales at the processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels.

INTRODUCTION

This reports estimates the economic contributions of fish and wildlife harvests and recreation in the state of Louisiana in 1996. Included in this report are specific economic estimates for the following activities:

- Hunting
- Recreational fishing
- Non-consumptive fish and wildlife recreation (bird watching, photography, etc.)
- Recreational boating
- Commercial fishing
- Alligator harvests
- Reptile and amphibian collection, and
- Fur harvesting

For each of the above activities, estimates are provided for the total revenues or retail sales generated in 1996, and the resulting jobs, income, sales and income tax revenues and total economic (multiplier) effect that are supported by each activity within the Louisiana economy.

For recreational boating, commercial fishing, reptile and amphibian collection and fur harvests, scientific studies of their economic contributions were not available. The resources available for this project would not permit the lengthy and costly examinations required to produce precise estimates. To overcome this limitation, information from similar studies in other states were transposed to Louisiana to estimate the economic impacts in state. While this may not be statistically perfect methodology, the results do provide Louisiana a good approximation of the actual benefits produced from its fish, wildlife and boating resources.

ECONOMIC CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

The economic benefits of outdoor recreation and resource harvests can be estimated by two types of economic measures: economic impacts and economic values. An economic impact addresses the business and financial activity resulting from users' expenditures. Economic value measures the intrinsic value received by the user in the course of their outdoor activity. Technically, economic value measures the difference between what an individual would be willing to pay and what they actually pay for a commodity or activity. This concept is also known as "consumer surplus". Only **economic impacts** are addressed in this report.

There are three types of economic impacts: direct, indirect and induced. A direct impact is created by the initial purchase made by the consumer. For example, when a person buys a shotgun for \$395 there is a direct impact to the retailer of \$395. Indirect impacts are secondary effects generated from a direct impact. For example, the retail store must purchase a replacement shotgun; the gun manufacturer must purchase additional metals, wood, etc. for production; metal refiners must buy inputs, and so on. Therefore, the original expenditure of \$395 benefits a host of other industries. An induced impact results from the wages and salaries paid by the directly and indirectly impacted industries. The employees of these industries spend their income on various goods and services. These expenditures are known as induced impacts which, in turn, create a continual cycle of additional indirect and induced effects.

The sum of the direct, indirect and induced impacts equals the total economic impact. As the original retail purchase goes through round after round of indirect and induced effects, the economic impact of the original purchase is multiplied, benefiting many industries and individuals. Likewise, the reverse is true. If a particular item or industry is removed from the economy, the economic loss is greater than the original lost retail sale. Once the original retail purchase is made, each successive round of spending is smaller than the previous round. When the economic benefits are no longer measurable, the economic examination ends.

Definitions:

Retail Sales: For hunting, recreational fishing, boating and non-consumptive recreationists, retail sales equals the dollars spent by the participants to partake in their recreation including meals, lodging, travel and equipment.

For commercial activities (commercial fishing, alligator harvests, fur, etc.), retail sales equals the income the harvesters receive for their catch. Retail sales is the same as dock side or ex-vessel price.

Total Economic, or multiplier, Effect:

is the total multiplier (or ripple) effect in the economy created by successive rounds of retailer, manufacturer and others' expenditures. These successive rounds of spending generate additional economic benefits with each round becoming smaller and smaller until they cannot be measured any longer.

Jobs:

the total jobs supported by the many rounds of spending described above.

Income:

the total wages and salaries paid to employees by all of the industries enhanced by the total rounds of spending.

Tax Revenues:

the total sales and income tax revenues paid to government as a result of the retail sales, wages and salaries described above.

Non-Consumptive Recreation:

Fish and wildlife viewing or watching, photography and feeding.

METHODS

The discussion of methodologies used in this report is divided into several sections. The first presents the methodologies used to estimate the economic contributions of sport fishing, hunting and non-consumptive recreation. The economic estimates for these three activities were generated using the same data sources and analytical procedures. After the discussion on sport fishing, hunting, and non-consumptive activities, the methodologies used to estimate the contributions of the other activities will be presented. The results are presented in the next chapter.

Recreational Fishing, Hunting and Non-Consumptive Fish and Wildlife Recreation:

The sport fishing estimates were obtained from The 1991 Economic Impact of Sport Fishing in Louisiana produced by the American Sportfishing Association (Fedler and Nickum). No adjustments were needed to these numbers. The numbers from this report were produced using the methodologies described below.

The hunting estimates were obtained from The Economic Benefits of Hunting in the United States in 1991 produced by Southwick Associates for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Adjustments were not required to this study. The numbers from this report were also produced using the methodologies described below.

The economic contributions of non-consumptive fish and wildlife recreation (bird watching, wildlife observation and photography, and feeding) were produced as part of this report. The methodologies used were identical to the methodologies discussed next.

The methods used to estimate the economic impacts of these activities are separated into six stages:

- 1) tabulate recreationists' expenditures;
- 2) calculate the expenditures attributable to Louisiana;
- 3) disaggregate the expenditures into retail, wholesale, and manufacturer portions;
- 4) generate economic impact estimates by applying the economic model to the adjusted expenditures;
- 5) calculate state sales and income tax revenues;
- 6) adjust 1991 recreational estimates to reflect 1996 participation levels and adjust for inflation.

Expenditures

Outdoor recreation expenditures were obtained from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1991 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation (Survey). The Survey contains data on trip-related expenditures (such as food, lodging, fuel) where the primary purpose of the purchase was for hunting, fishing or wildlife-related activities (for example, wildlife photography, bird watching, etc.). The Survey also contains data on equipment expenditures (such as guns, decoys, ammunition) made by sportsmen for hunting, equipment expenditures (such as rods, reels, tackle boxes) made for fishing, and contains data on equipment expenditures (such as boats, camping equipment) made by sportsmen that can be used for both hunting and fishing. In addition, the Survey contains data (in a separate sampling) on equipment expenditures (such as guide books, day packs) made by recreationists for non-consumptive wildlife-related activities. Both resident and non-resident (tourist) expenditures are included in the hunting, recreational fishing and non-consumptive analyses.

For the purposes of this project, data were first downloaded from the survey database for the U.S. as a whole for all angling, hunting and wildlife-related expenditures. Expenditures were separated into individual state files for each of the three activities. All expenditures in this file were direct expenditures. Hunting expenditures were further subdivided into big game, small game (which also includes "other" hunted species as per the Survey) and migratory bird hunting files. Also downloaded were the total days of hunting, fishing and wildlife-related activities for each state along with specific estimates for big game, small game and migratory bird hunting days per state. Simultaneously, data were downloaded on each respondent's total activity conducted on public lands (the public lands data will be described further in the next section). After the data were downloaded, each state's direct expenditures were divided by the total days of activity to derive the average direct expenditure per day of hunting (by big game, small game and migratory bird hunting expenditures per day), fishing and non-consumptive recreation.

For wildlife-related use expenditures, certain equipment expenditures were not allocated as they typically are used for wildlife-related activities around the home and not used for activities away from home (such as National Forest and other public lands). These include purchases of bird houses, bird feeders and commercial bird seed.

Margins (Indirect Expenditures)

Retail sales (recreationist expenditures) were separated into manufacturing, wholesale and retail sub-categories because economic impact analyses treats each segment as separate industries. The amount of each retail sale attributed to each segment is known as a margin. A margin is the percentage, or mark-up, of a sale attributable to either the retail, wholesale or manufacturing sector. For example, 70 percent of the final retail dollar value of a shotgun sale may be attributed to the manufacturer, 5 percent to the wholesaler

and 25 percent to the retailer. This means that the manufacturing industry has earned 70 percent of the final retail price, the wholesaler accrued 5 percent of the sale, and the retailer received 25 percent. Since there are no wholesale or manufacturing activities in the service sector, services are not subjected to the above process.

Data used to calculate trade margins are from the Census of Retail Trade: Measures of Values Produced and the Census of Wholesale Trade: Measures of Values Produced. These two Department of Commerce documents contain national sales figures for most retail and wholesale industry sectors as well as gross margins. A gross margin is the revenue remaining after the cost of the goods sold is subtracted. To derive margins, each wholesale and retail industry's gross margin was divided by its total sales. This produces the typical price mark-up for that industry. Next, two formulas are applied to estimate the value added (price mark-up) for each sector:

$R/(1+R)$ = retail margin, where R = retail mark-up

$W/\{(1+W)(1+R)\}$ = wholesale margin, where W = wholesale mark-up.

These formulas estimate the percentage of a product's final selling price that accrue to each sector. The manufacturing margin is derived by summing the retail and wholesale margins and subtracting the total from 100 percent.

Economic Modeling

To estimate the economic impacts the data were analyzed with an economic model: the RIMS-II Regional Input-Output model. The RIMS-II model was developed by the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis for primary use by the Federal government. Input-output models describe how sales in one industry impact other industries. For example, once a sportsman makes a purchase, the retailer buys more merchandise from wholesalers, who buy more from manufacturers, who, in turn, purchase new inputs and supplies. In addition, the wages and salaries paid by these businesses stimulate more benefits. Simply, the first purchase creates numerous rounds of purchasing. Input-output analysis tracks how the various rounds of purchasing benefits other industries and generates economic benefits.

The relationships between industries are explained through multipliers. For example, an income multiplier of .09 for industry X would indicate that for every dollar received by the industry under study, nine cents would be paid to the employees of industry X . The RIMS-II model provides multipliers for all major industries. The multipliers include direct, indirect and induced effects. The RIMS-II model includes output, earnings and employment multipliers. The output multiplier measures the total economic effects created by the original retail sale. The earnings multiplier measures the total salaries and wages generated by the original retail sale. The employment multiplier estimates the number of full time equivalent jobs supported by the original retail sale.

To apply the RIMS-II model, recreationist expenditures are each matched to the appropriate output, earnings and employment multipliers. For example, dollars attributed to gasoline refining are multiplied separately by the earnings, output and employment multipliers specific to gasoline refinement. The resulting estimates describe the salaries and wages, total economic effects, and jobs supported by the refining industry as a result of fuel purchases made by recreationists. This same process is repeated for all reported expenditures. After all expenditures and multipliers have been applied together, the retail, wholesale and manufacturing results for each category are summed together.

Tax Revenues

State sales tax estimates are based on state sales and fuel tax rates. Sales tax revenues are calculated by multiplying all retail purchases by the 1991 state tax rate (excluding local and city taxes). Due to the widely differing fees for wholesaler/manufacturer and use taxes, these were not included in this study. Since the economic numbers (including tax revenues) from the Survey and the hunting and sport fishing study reported 1991 data only, the tax revenues were inflated to 1996 levels using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U).

State income tax revenues were determined by dividing the total earnings by total jobs to receive the average income per job. Next, a standard deduction was subtracted (based on federal deduction rates) and the remaining amount was multiplied by the respective 1996 state income tax rate. The results were then multiplied by the total jobs to derive the final income tax estimate.

Adjusting 1991 recreation-based results to 1996

The data from the Survey were for 1991. We made adjustments to convert the results to estimate economic impacts for 1996. The first adjustment entailed adjusting the 1991 numbers to reflect 1996 participation levels. This was accomplished by calculating the average economic impact per hunting and fishing license sold in 1991 (approximately 552,000 hunting and 855,000 fishing licenses were sold in Louisiana during 1991) and then multiplying these averages by the total number of hunting and fishing licenses sold in 1996 (approximately 579,000 hunting and 944,000 fishing licenses were sold in Louisiana during 1996). Since licenses are not sold for non-consumptive recreation, 1991 numbers were adjusted to 1996 levels by using the average increase in fishing and hunting license sales.

The second adjustment entailed multiplying the 1991 monetary numbers by the growth in prices (inflation) experienced from 1991 to 1996. The inflation rate was calculated by dividing the December, 1996 Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 158.6 by the

December, 1991 CPI of 137.9. For non-consumptive recreation, the only adjustment was for inflation using the CPI. Jobs estimates were not adjusted for inflation as the average wage per job typically rises with inflation. Therefore, the number of jobs remains the same as prices increase. Job growth is created by more people participating in hunting or fishing, or if more money is spent per sportsmen above the inflation rate.

Recreational Boating:

A study of the economic impacts of Louisiana boating could not be located nor identified. Therefore, the contributions of recreational boating in Louisiana were estimated based on a 1994 examination of boating economics in the state of Maryland (*Recreational Boating in Maryland: An Economic Impact Study*). This study was the latest available for any state and only one of three state-specific studies that could be identified (the others included a ten year old study of Texas boaters and one currently being conducted in California but not yet available). While not a perfect match, the Maryland study compares favorably to Louisiana as much of both states boating activity is marine, and a significant portion occurs in protected marine waters with the rest accessing either deep water or inland lakes and rivers.

Another comparison exists between recreational boating and sportfishing in Louisiana and Maryland. According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association and the American Sportfishing Association, up to 80 percent of boaters also fish. Per boater registration records maintained by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 282,250 boats were registered for recreational use in Louisiana in 1996. The Maryland Boating Administration reported 190,436 registered boats. Therefore, the Maryland boating population is 68 percent the size of Louisiana's. Based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Non-consumptive Recreation, the number of anglers in Maryland is 61 percent the size of Louisiana's angler population. Therefore, to estimate the economic impacts of recreational boating in Louisiana, Maryland data is considered an adequate comparison.

Economic impacts of recreational boating were estimated by multiplying the average annual expenditures per registered boats in Maryland (\$5,311) by the number of registered boats in Louisiana. This yields an estimate of \$1.49 billion in average boating expenditures in 1996. This expenditure estimate includes all trip-related expenditures (food, fuel, lodging, etc.), boat-related expenses (equipment, marina expenses, repairs, etc.) and the cost of purchasing new and used boats. Based on the ratios of expenditures to impacts within the Maryland study, the estimated economic benefits of recreational boating are listed below for the state of Louisiana. Tax revenues were estimated by matching the ratio derived from sportfishing expenditures to tax revenues (data source: American Sportfishing Association) with estimated boating expenditures. One note must be made: the boating expenditures made as part of a boater's fishing activities are

also represented in the sport fishing impacts presented in this report. While this is a double counting of the same expenditures and economic impacts, these expenditures are not removed. The first reason why they are not removed is that the exact boating-fishing expenditures cannot be identified without incurring significant time and financial demands that are both beyond the capabilities of this study. Second, the boating-fishing expenditures are left in as a proxy to non-boater expenditures and impacts that are not a part of this analysis as they were not included in the Maryland report (which was the foundation of these estimates).

Commercial Fisheries:

Data specifically focused on the economic contributions of Louisiana's commercial fisheries could not be located. Therefore, the economic contributions of commercial fisheries in Louisiana were calculated by the following steps. First, the total dollar value (ex-vessel) of Louisiana's commercial harvest was analyzed using multiplier ratios derived from the Economic Impact of the Commercial Fishing Industry in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Regions (1984) by Kearney/Centaur for the Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation, Inc. The total value of the Louisiana commercial harvest as a whole was calculated using these data. Data reporting the total dockside value of Louisiana's commercial harvest was obtained from the National Marine Fisheries Service, who obtained the data originally from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Based on the percentages of the total harvest attributable to each species (reported by NMFS and LDWF), we were able to estimate the total economic impacts for marine finfish, freshwater harvests (including frogs, gar, crawfish and turtles (food-only)) and marine shellfish harvests (shrimp, crabs, etc.). Data for 1995 were used in the report as 1996 harvest value data were not available at the time this report was produced.

The economic multipliers from the Kearney report were obtained from a table (exhibit 6-14, p. 187-9 of the Kearney study) that analyzed the economic contributions of commercial landings in the gulf and south Atlantic regions as they moved through the processing and wholesale sectors to the final retail and restaurant consumers. This table presented how much extra monetary value was added to the fishery products as they moved through each sector (processing, wholesale, etc.), and the total jobs and economic activity supported by each sector. By comparing the "value added" produced at each sector to the initial ex-vessel value, ratios were obtained that were then used to estimate the value-added, jobs supported and total economic activity from 1995 Louisiana commercial fishery landings.

Adjustments had to be made. First, the ratios calculated and used as described in the paragraph above estimate the economic impacts of Louisiana commercials on the *national* economy. No economic models could be located that emulated the state

economy. The scope of this project, however, is to estimate economic contributions at the *state* level only. The difference between state and national analyses is that national economic analyses typically have a larger impact for every dollar spent (or received) by a specific industry. This is due to the fact that as an industry spends its revenues (and therefore creates economic impacts), the money spent leaves the state economy faster than it leaves the national economy. For example, if a Louisiana shrimp processor sells his catch to a Texas wholesaler, the economic effects on the Louisiana economy end at this point while the effects continue for the national economy. Not until the shrimp is either consumed or exported does the impact end on the national economy. Recognizing this, the commercial fishery impacts estimated using multipliers from the Kearney report had to be reduced.

Based on two studies that presented national and state specific impacts, comparisons were made between the impacts generated per dollar of sales at the Louisiana and national levels. These two studies are the reports presented in the hunting and the sportfishing sections of this report. From these studies, comparisons could be made between multipliers for state economies versus national economies:

	<u>Total Economic Activity</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Jobs</u>
<i>Sport fishing:</i>	69%	66%	77%
<i>Hunting:</i>	<u>69%</u>	<u>74%</u>	<u>88%</u>
AVERAGE:	69%	70%	82%

The average difference between state and national multipliers were then used to adjust the economic contributions of Louisiana's commercial fisheries to reflect state-level impacts versus national-level impacts.

Since the objective of this report is to estimate the 1996 contributions of fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation to the Louisiana economy, one final adjustment was made. The commercial fishery estimates above were based on the 1995 commercial fishery harvest. Data on the 1996 harvest were not available when this report was assembled. Therefore, without any information on the actual 1996 harvest, adjustments were made by inflating the 1995 harvest value by the consumer price index. From December 1995 to December 1996, consumer prices rose approximately three percent. The final economic estimates for commercial harvests were increased accordingly.

The following calculation was used to estimate the state sales and income taxes generated by commercial fishing. State sales and income tax revenues were estimated by first averaging the ratios of retail sales to tax revenues for both sportfishing and hunting (the only two wildlife based resource uses for which Louisiana sales and income tax revenue estimates are available), and then matching the average ratio to commercial fishery retail sales.

Alligator Harvests:

The economic contributions of alligator harvests were based on Louisiana Alligator Farming: 1991 Economic Impact (Brannen, et al.). This thorough examination calculated the economic contribution of both wild and farm harvests including meat and hide sales. From this report, ratios were developed by comparing sales (industry revenues) to total output (multiplier effect), income and jobs. These ratios were matched with actual revenues from all hide and meat sales from the 1995/96 season as reported by the LDWF. The results were the total estimated economic contributions of the Louisiana alligator trade. State sales and income tax revenues were estimated by first averaging the ratios of retail sales to tax revenues for both sportfishing and hunting (the only two wildlife based resource uses for which Louisiana tax revenue estimates are available), and matching the average ratio to alligator retail sales.

Reptile and Amphibian Collection:

The Louisiana economy also benefits from the collection of reptiles and amphibians for human consumption, laboratory research and the pet trade. However, only exports out-of-state are regulated and therefore recorded. In 1995, the latest year in which export records were available, the following values for exported reptiles and amphibians were reported:

Salamanders:	\$ 6,134
Frogs:	\$349,136
Turtles:	\$171,515
Lizards:	\$602,182
Snakes:	\$ 97,614
<i>TOTAL:</i>	<i>\$1,226,581</i>

The economic contributions of these shipments were estimated by using economic multipliers from the commercial fishing portion of this report as both activities represent the harvest of a wild resource for commercial sale. Recognizing that commercial harvesting employs a processing sector and most reptile amphibian exports are shipped whole and/or live, better multipliers could not be located. Generating new multipliers was beyond the scope of this study. Ratios were developed by comparing sales (industry revenues) to total output (multiplier effect), income and jobs. These ratios were matched with 1995 reptile and amphibian export values as reported by the LDWF. The results were the total estimated economic contributions of the Louisiana reptile and amphibian trade. State sales and income tax revenues were estimated by first averaging the ratios of retail sales to tax revenues for both sportfishing and hunting (the only two wildlife based resource uses for which Louisiana tax revenue estimates are available), and matching the average ratio to reptile and amphibian retail sales. To

reflect 1996 levels, the 1995 estimates were inflated to 1996 levels using the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Fur Harvests:

The value of the annual state fur harvest is recorded by the LDWF. To estimate the economic impacts, multipliers were borrowed from a national economic study of trapping conducted in 1993 titled An Economic Profile of the U.S. Fur Industry (Southwick et al.). Ratios were developed by comparing sales (industry revenues) to total output (multiplier effect), income and jobs in the Southwick fur industry study. These ratios were then matched with 1995/96 fur harvest value data as reported by the LDWF. The results were the total estimated economic contributions of the Louisiana fur trade. State sales and income tax revenues were estimated by first averaging the ratios of retail sales to tax revenues for both sportfishing and hunting (the only two wildlife based resource uses for which Louisiana tax revenue estimates are available), and matching the average ratio to fur retail sales (which is the same as the value of the fur harvest).

The Economic Contributions of Louisiana's Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources:

The economic contributions of all fishery, wildlife and boating related impacts cannot be accurately estimated by simply summing the results for each separate fishery, hunting, boating and other analyses. Since expenditures from one activity may directly or indirectly benefit another activity included in this analysis, such as boats purchased by duck hunters, simply summing the results of each separate analysis may underestimate the actual economic contributions of all activities together. However, without detailed data on how the retail sales of each analysis are spent across all industries in Louisiana and other information, the results of each analysis must be summed. *Please note that the sum of the economic contributions is a minimum estimate and most likely underestimates the true impact of all fish, wildlife and boating activities examined in this report.*

RESULTS

The 1996 economic contributions of Louisiana's fisheries, wildlife and boating resources to the state economy are presented below. The minimum contributions of all activities together are presented last.

Hunting:

Expenditures:	\$ 389,200,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$ 758,500,000
Income:	\$ 206,400,000
Jobs:	9,800
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 16,600,000
State income tax revenues:	\$ 4,200,000

Recreational Fishing:

Marine:

Expenditures:	\$ 450,300,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$ 944,000,000
Income:	\$ 247,505,000
Jobs:	10,900
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 18,644,000
State income tax revenues:	\$ 4,071,000

Freshwater:

Expenditures:	\$ 339,700,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$ 656,000,000
Income:	\$ 171,995,000
Jobs:	7,500
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 12,956,000
State income tax revenues:	\$ 2,829,000

Total Recreational Fishing:

Expenditures:	\$ 790,000,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$ 1.6 billion
Income:	\$ 419,500,000
Jobs:	18,400
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 31,600,000

State income tax revenues:	\$ 6,900,000
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Non-Consumptive Fish and Wildlife Recreation:

Expenditures:	\$ 253,300,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$ 512,300,000
Income:	\$ 144,300,000
Jobs:	6,800
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 17,900,000
State income tax revenues:	\$ 3,100,000

Recreational Boating:

Retail Sales:	\$1.5 billion
Total Economic Effect:	\$3.0 billion
Income (household wages, business profits)	\$846,000,000
Jobs	26,600
State sales tax revenue:	\$59,600,000
State income tax revenue:	\$13,000,000

Commercial Fisheries:

Marine Finfish (12% of total commercial harvest):

Ex-vessel landings (dock side value):	\$ 38,800,000
Retail sales:	\$256,500,000
(sales generated at processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels)	
Total Economic Effect:	\$341,900,000
Income:	\$ 55,300,000
Jobs:	3,856
State sales tax revenues:	\$ 10,600,000
State income tax revenues:	\$ 2,500,000

Menhaden (13% of total commercial harvest):

Ex-vessel landings (dock side value):	\$ 41,100,000
Retail sales:	\$272,100,000
(sales generated at processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels)	
Total Economic Effect:	\$362,600,000
Income:	\$ 58,600,000

Jobs:	4,090
State sales tax revenues:	\$11,200,000
State income tax revenues:	\$2,700,000

Shrimp and Shellfish (70% of total commercial harvest):

Ex-vessel landings (dock side value):	\$221,100,000
Retail sales:	\$1.5 billion
(sales generated at processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels)	
Total Economic Effect:	\$1.9 billion
Income:	\$315,200,000
Jobs:	22,000
State sales tax revenues:	\$60,400,000
State income tax revenues:	\$14,500,000

Freshwater Harvests (5% of total commercial harvest):

Ex-vessel landings (dock side value):	\$14,800,000
Retail sales:	\$97,900,000
(sales generated at processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels)	
Total Economic Effect:	\$130,500,000
Income:	\$21,100,000
Jobs:	1,500
State sales tax revenues:	\$4,000,000
State income tax revenues:	\$970,000

All Louisiana Commercial Harvests (Total):

Ex-vessel landings (dock side value):	\$315,800,000
Retail sales:	\$2.1 billion
(sales generated at processing, wholesale, retail and restaurant levels)	
Total Economic Effect:	\$2.8 billion
Income:	\$450,200,000
Jobs:	31,400
State sales tax revenues:	\$86,300,000
State income tax revenues:	\$20,700,000

Alligator Harvests:

Retail sales:	\$23,010,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$40,190,000
Income:	\$6,020,000

Jobs:	430
State sales tax revenues:	\$950,300
State income tax revenues:	\$227,800

Reptile and Amphibian Collection:

Retail sales:	\$1,263,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$2,501,000
Income:	\$670,000
Jobs:	20
State sales tax revenues:	\$52,200
State income tax revenues:	\$12,500

Fur Harvests:

Retail sales:	\$1,356,000
Total Economic Effect:	\$2,493,000
Income:	\$673,000
Jobs:	36
State sales tax revenues:	\$57,800
State income tax revenues:	\$13,400

Total Economic Activities of Fisheries, Wildlife and Boating Resources in Louisiana:

Please note that the sum of the economic contributions for all fish, wildlife and boating related activities is a minimum estimate and most likely underestimates the true impact of all fish, wildlife and boating activities examined in this report (due to the multiplier effects lost through simple summations). This summation is only presented to help the reader gain a better understanding of the overall benefits these activities provide to the state economy.

Retail sales:	\$5.047 billion
Total Economic Effect:	\$8.7 billion
Income:	\$2.074 billion
Jobs:	93,500
State sales tax revenues:	\$213,000,000
State income tax revenues:	\$48,000,000

CONCLUSION

The fisheries, wildlife and boating resources of Louisiana provide the state economy with important sources of jobs, income, tax revenues and other benefits. These benefits are particularly important in rural or remote areas where other sources of income are limited. Outdoor sportsmen and recreationists spend millions which benefit many other industries. Consumers spends millions more purchasing food and other products harvested from Louisiana's waters. By supporting over \$5 billion in retail sales, 93,500 jobs, over \$2 billion in salaries and wages, and over \$260 million in state tax revenues, these activities are of great value not only to industry and local businesses, but to every resident and community in Louisiana. In addition to benefiting a variety of industries, outdoor recreation contributes hundreds of millions of dollars annually in state tax revenues.

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